

Application No 1

Funding Source	Neighbourhood Fund
Name of Project	Stephenson Trail
Lead Organisation	Sunderland City Council: Area Arrangements

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total NCIP Application
£150,000	£100,000 (East and Coalfields)	£50,000 (West)
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
12 months / 1 year	October 2021	September 2022

ALL PROJECT DETAIL TAKEN VERBATIM FROM APPLICATIONS

Project Description:

In November 2020, Area Committee agreed the Membership of the Task Group for the Stephenson Trail, this was:

Cllr's Antony Mullen, Margaret Crosby and Karen Noble

In January 2021 the inaugural Task Group meeting was held with representatives from the Coalfields, East and West Sunderland Area Committees, Council Services, Hetton Colliery Railway 200 Trust and Sustrans. A vibrant discussion was held, with suggestions coming from all attendees which assisted in the development of an Action Plan with ideas and actions being formed under the following headings.

- a. Information boards and signage
- b. Sculptures along the trail/ Iconic art at beginning and end
- c. Environmental improvements (cutting down vegetation etc..)
- d. Enhance cycle route options
- e. Walking maps/guides
- f. Educational programme
- g. Install rest spots
- h. Raise awareness of route
- i. Promote historic importance
- j. Promote health benefits/encourage use

- k. Hold celebration event/s in Summer 2022

To enable the Task Group to be proactive Coalfields, West and East Area Committee's each aligned £50,000 to the Task Group to all them to deliver future proposal.

In August 2021, Members received an update from the Stephenson Trail Task Group who identified the need for educational and recreational activities to be available to promote and celebrate the route. An outline proposal for Schools Resource Pack, and Art Project Ideas is shown below:

Educational Proposals

STEPHENSON TRAIL PROJECT

SPECIFICATION OF SERVICES

Background

Designed by George Stephenson and opened in 1822, the trail was originally established by Sunderland City Council to recognise and celebrate Hetton Colliery Railway, being of significant international importance in the early role of railways at that time. The trail follows the route taken by coal wagons on their way from the Elemore and Hetton Collieries to the River Wear. It is 11 miles long, starts at Hetton le Hill Community Golf Course and ends at the River Wear and takes approximately five hours to walk it from start to end.

In 2020, following funding secured by Coalfields, East and West Area Committee, a Stephenson's Trail Task and Finish Group was established to seek to develop a spectacular project to celebrate Stephenson Trail bicentenary developing opportunities with local schools, community partners and residents.

Co-ordinated by Sunderland City Council's Museum and Heritage Team, we want to use themes which celebrate the Stephenson's trail past, present and future showcasing some of the trails most historical and natural landscapes alongside working with our heritage partners **Hetton200** [Home \(hcr200.org\)](http://hcr200.org) .

Our aim is to ensure all communities, families and children learn about the rich history and significance to the Stephenson's trail, feel connected to its heritage and

can participate in activity that recognises the beauty and wildlife of this expansive natural landscape.

Project Summary

Some of the activity should include:

Producing a Schools Resource Pack

Based around key themes, nature, geology, health and wellbeing, history and industry, archaeology, art & design and music, the content of the pack would link to the National Curriculum and be developed by the project co-ordinator in collaboration with local schools (alongside specialist organisations and community groups with the expertise in subject and local knowledge), with pilot sessions and testing to make sure the activities best suit their needs. There are 7 local schools with potential for each partner school to work on one subject strand of the project.

The finished packs would be offered to all primary schools along/or near to the trail and should as a minimum include lesson plans, archive resources, maps, documents, photographs and activity ideas and trails. Activities should also be inclusive of children with SEND.

Engaging and Interactive Arts Projects

Creative arts projects engaging families and the wider community with the themes of the Stephenson Trail. Initial proposals could include:

- o Trail Markers Project
- o Stephenson Trail Music Programme
- o Flag/Banner making project
- o Landscape Photography Competition
- o Immersive Coal mining stories and oral histories

Stephenson Community Exhibition

Working with local art organisations to organise, manage and deliver a community art exhibition which focuses on natural landscapes, nature, flora and fauna.

Community Celebration Event – *Walking the Stephenson Trail*

A community event to include walking the trail.

Contract Arrangements

The Project Co-ordinator will commence work with the City Council in October 2021 and work for a period of 9 months to plan and oversee delivery of a range of activity, including delivering interactive workshops with schoolchildren and engage with community groups and cultural partners. The project should be intergenerational using a broad mix of audiences, groups and communities. Managed by the Service Manager – Heritage, Museums and Arts, the successful candidate will work remotely, attend project planning meetings and present progress reports to the Stephenson Trail Task and Finish Group.

The bidder will manage a budget to commission services, source all materials and oversee the installation of any exhibition content to specific sites.

The bidder must be experienced in delivering similar activity and be able to provide examples of where they have engaged previously with children and young people, hard to reach groups and local communities.

The bidder will work in close communication with the Service Manager – Heritage, Museums and Arts who will oversee the delivery of this project on behalf of the Area Committee.

The bidder will be requested to measure a range of outcomes throughout the project i.e., numbers of people/volunteers engaged, items produced. Bidders will be asked to produce an impact report to describe the full impact the project has had on individuals e.g., health, wellbeing, activeness.

Project Requirements

Bidders must be able to demonstrate within their bid how they will manage and deliver this project and produce a timeline and associated budget.

Bidders must demonstrate excellent planning/communication skills and be available to attend project team meetings as and when required.

BUDGET/TIMELINE

The total fee for this commission will be **£30,000** net of VAT and is fully inclusive of all costs associated with delivery of this service. A contract for service will be issued and include a detailed specification and delivery timeline.

- October - Contract awarded. Meet with SCC to discuss the project.
- Establish project plan and timeline for delivery

Planning Phase Nov – Dec 2021

Initial contact with schools, community and cultural partners

Plan sessions to commence January and source required materials

Progress updates to Stephenson Task and Finish Group

Agree any exhibition plans and installation sites/equipment required

Delivery Phase Jan- June 2022

To include progress updates to Stephenson Task and Finish Group

GOVERNANCE

Bidders will need to demonstrate within their submission:

- An outline of the approach taken including details of how you propose to structure, deliver and manage the project
- a breakdown of fees
- Details of individuals appointed to work on the contract and their experience
- Examples of other similar projects you have delivered
- Any other relevant information which supports your submission

INDEMNITY AND INSURANCE

Bidders must hold the following insurances:

- Employers Liability to the value of £10 million
- Public Liability (Third Party) to the value of £5 million
- Professional Indemnity £2 million

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RETURNED BIDS

Interested organisations should send their completed submissions including a proposal of how you would undertake the project within the allocated budget, marked private and confidential for the attention of:

Trina Murphy, Service Manager Heritage, Museums and Arts
Sunderland City Council

The Area Committee were consulted on the Educational Programme and it is recommended to approval of £30,000 (**£10,000 West**) from the previously allocated £150,000 joint funding (Coalfield, East and West Area Committees), for delivery of the project. It is further recommended that the remaining £120,000 (**£40,000 West**) is approved to deliver information boards/signage and environmental improvements, detail to be agreed by the Task and Finish Group.

Outputs

TBC as and when the Programme is rolled out and implemented across the three Areas

Budget

	<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>Coalfields</i>	<i>Total</i>
Stephenson Trail Task Group	£50,000	£50,000	£50,000	£150,000

Recommendation – Approve

This project meets with the Communicate heritage assets and delivery heritage activities to improve health and wellbeing and improve community cohesion