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|  <p>Lee Valley Regional Park Authority</p> <p>LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY</p> <p>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</p> <p>21 JUNE 2018 AT 11:30</p> | <p><u>Agenda Item No:</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <p><u>Report No:</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">E/569/18</p> |
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**AGREEMENT FOR DELIVERY OF FROGLIFE'S
HERITAGE LOTTERY FUNDED LONDON TOAD PROJECT
AT THE WATERWORKS NATURE RESERVE**

Presented by the Head of Parklands

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Froglife have been awarded a grant through the Heritage Lottery Fund to deliver the London TOAD project across a number of sites in London to improve habitats for Common Toad and raise awareness of them.

As a part of the project they have planned to undertake habitat enhancement works in the Lee Valley Regional Park at the WaterWorks Nature Reserve. In order to enable the works to take place on the Authority's landholdings a Landowner Agreement and Maintenance Plan needs to be agreed.

This paper seeks Member approval to enter into a Landowners Agreement and ten year Maintenance Plan of the features installed through the project as outlined in the main body of the report.

RECOMMENDATION

Members Approve: (1) that the Authority enters into a Landowners Agreement with Froglife outlining the management and maintenance of features installed through the TOAD project as noted in the main body of the report.

BACKGROUND

- 1 Froglife is a national wildlife conservation charity concerned with the conservation of the UK's amphibian and reptile species and their associated habitats. They have been awarded a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a project focusing on the Common Toad, a UK and draft Lee Valley Regional Park Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species.

- 2 The London Tails of Amphibian Discovery (TOAD) project aims to carry out conservation work across Greater London to create, restore and enhance

habitats for Common Toad, linking existing populations and informing best practice management across landholders, members of the public and volunteers.

- 3 As a part of the London TOAD project Froglife will be working with a range of organisations including the Corporation of London, London Boroughs of Enfield, Bexley and Richmond as well as Lee Valley Regional Park Authority.

THE AGREEMENT

- 4 The TOAD project in the Lee Valley is focused on one site, the WaterWorks Nature Reserve, where there is a known breeding population of Common Toad and also the potential for habitats to be enhanced. The proposed works include:

- pond creation;
- terrestrial habitat works; and
- species surveys.

If approved the habitat works would commence at the WaterWorks Nature Reserve in Summer 2019.

- 5 By signing this agreement the Authority agrees to carry out management and maintenance of the installed features for 10 years following their completion. A detailed Maintenance Plan will be drawn up and agreed between the two parties and Froglife will visit the site at 1, 3, 5, and 10 years after the habitat works have been completed to provide on the ground support where required.
- 6 It is anticipated that the on-going maintenance will be carried out by the Ranger Team and volunteers.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

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| 7 | Work carried out through the project will enhance the biodiversity value of landholdings on the WaterWorks Nature Reserve. |
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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8 All works undertaken on site will be funded through the HLF grant and administered by Froglife.
- 9 The WaterWorks Nature Reserve is currently in a Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) Scheme and Natural England have confirmed that the creation of a pond and the other proposed works within the Filter Beds does not impact upon any part of the existing agreement and will not alter any payments received in respect of HLS.
- 10 The on-going management regime of the pond outlined through the maintenance plan will need to take into consideration the possibility that the pond liner will be compromised and offer management solutions other than relining unless covered by warranties as noted in paragraph 12, as this can be costly. This may include refilling using existing pumps on site or managed decline over the remaining length of the agreement.

HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 11 If approved, the management of the project will be undertaken by the Conservation Manager supported by the Ranger Team and can be assimilated into their regular work programme.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 12 Froglife will ensure that the Authority's interest is noted in any construction agreement between Froglife and the party/ies carrying out the habitat restoration/creation works and that appropriate warranties are given to the Authority in relation to any works on our land.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 13 There are no risk management implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 14 There are no equality implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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| London TOAD | London Tails of Amphibian Discovery |
| HLF | Heritage Lottery Fund |
| HLS | Higher Level Stewardship |

