

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO**  
**THE PARKS FOR PEOPLE (ENGLAND) JOINT SCHEME (AUTHORISATION)**  
**ORDER 2008**

**2008 No. 3103**

1. This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by The Department for Culture Media and Sport and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

**2. Purpose of the instrument**

2.1 This Order authorises a modification to the Parks for People (England) Joint Scheme to extend the scheme to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 and vary the proportions in which money to be distributed under the scheme is attributable to the participating bodies.

**3. Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments**

3.1 None

**4. Legislative Context**

4.1 Under section 25B of the National Lottery etc Act (“the 1993 Act”) bodies distributing money under section 25 of that Act (distributors of National Lottery money to good causes) may participate with other such bodies in a joint scheme to distribute money. A Lottery distributor may participate in a joint scheme as long as the principal purposes of the joint scheme include purposes for which a Lottery distributor has power to distribute money and it does not matter that the scheme also distributes money to projects that fall outside the distributor’s power, apart from its participation in the joint scheme. In this way joint schemes allow Lottery distributors to pool resources and funding powers to facilitate the delivery of a single distribution scheme.

4.2 Schedule 3A to the 1993 Act makes further provision about joint schemes. Lottery distributors wishing to participate in a joint scheme must apply in writing to the Secretary of State and where the maximum amount of money to be distributed under the scheme exceeds £15 million in any year then the scheme must be authorised by an order made by the Secretary of State. Such orders must include a brief description of the scheme, the areas of the United Kingdom to which it applies, the maximum amount that may be distributed every year, the participating bodies, the proportions in which money to be distributed under the scheme is attributable to each of those bodies and the duration of the scheme.

4.3 On the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2005 the participating distributors wrote to the Secretary of State applying for the Parks for People (England) joint scheme to be authorised as the scheme will distribute more than £15 million a year. The broad purpose of the joint scheme is to make grants for expenditure on, or connected with, the national heritage, health, education or the environment in order to increase community usage of local parks. The scheme was authorised by S.I. 2005/ 3274. On the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2008 the

Big Lottery Fund and the National Heritage Memorial Fund (operating under the name of the Heritage Lottery Fund), namely the participating distributors for Parks for People (England) joint scheme, wrote to the Secretary of State applying for a modification to the joint scheme to extend the duration of it until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 and vary the proportions in which money to be distributed under the scheme is attributable to the participating bodies. This Order authorises that modification. The maximum amount of money which can be distributed in any year under the joint scheme has been reduced from £99 million to £50 million in order to reflect each participating distributor's spending projections.

## **5. Territorial Extent and Application**

5.1 This instrument applies to England.

## **6. European Convention on Human Rights**

As the instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

## **7. Policy background**

- *What is being done and why*

7.1 In 2005 the Big Lottery Fund and Heritage Lottery Fund agreed to establish a joint National Lottery scheme named "Parks for People" to offer grants to projects which enhanced the quality and use of public parks. This built on HLF's existing successful Public Parks programme and followed a number of public consultations in which funding community projects which helped develop green spaces had been supported. The Big Lottery Fund and Heritage Lottery Fund agreed to provide an overall awards budget of £150 million and the original scheme operated between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2006 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008.

7.2 During this three-year period, Parks for People has awarded almost £118 million in grants ranging between £250,000-£5 million. The Big Lottery Fund and the Heritage Lottery Fund wish to extend the Scheme to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 to enable the joint programme to close on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 and allow the disbursement of committed funds to projects as they complete their works. The total awards budget allocated for this scheme has been reduced to £140 million.

- *Consolidation*

7.3 Not applicable

## **8. Consultation outcome**

8.1 Not applicable

## **9. Guidance**

9.1 No Guidance will be issued for this modification to an existing joint scheme.

## **10. Impact**

10.1 The impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies is beneficial: provided they and their project meets the eligibility requirements of the scheme they may apply for a grant.

10.2 The impact on the public sector is beneficial: provided they and their project meet the eligibility requirements of the scheme public sector bodies may apply for a grant.

10.3 An Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument.

## **11. Regulating small business**

11.1 The legislation applies to eligible small businesses wishing to apply for a grant through the Joint Scheme.

11.2 To minimise the impact of the requirements on firms employing up to 20 people, the approach taken is to ensure that application forms and guidance notes are clear and request only the information necessary to allow the participating Lottery distributors to reach a decision.

11.3 The basis for the final decision on what action to take to assist small business is that both the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund, in common with other Lottery distributors, are committed to simplifying application and decision-making processes.

## **12. Monitoring & review**

12.1 Decisions about funding programmes and applications are for Lottery distributors to make at arm's length from Government, subject to relevant legislation and policy directions issued by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. Any monitoring and review to be undertaken by each distributor will be carried out as part of their usual business, taking into account factors such as likely availability of funding and numbers of applications received.

## **13. Contact**

Dianne Jefferson at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport email: [Dianne.jefferson@culture.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Dianne.jefferson@culture.gsi.gov.uk) can answer any queries regarding the instrument.