



Parks for People - the story so far...

1996 Urban Parks Programme

2002 Public Parks Initiative

2006 Parks for People

£700m+ awarded to more
than **700** parks across the UK

2012 HLF/Big UK Parks Summit

2014 latest evolution of programme



Strategic Framework 2013-18



“The benefits of a high-quality well-maintained park are universally accepted but there are **major concerns about the future of parks** as non-statutory local authority services.

Grant programmes for parks & green spaces

- **Parks for People**

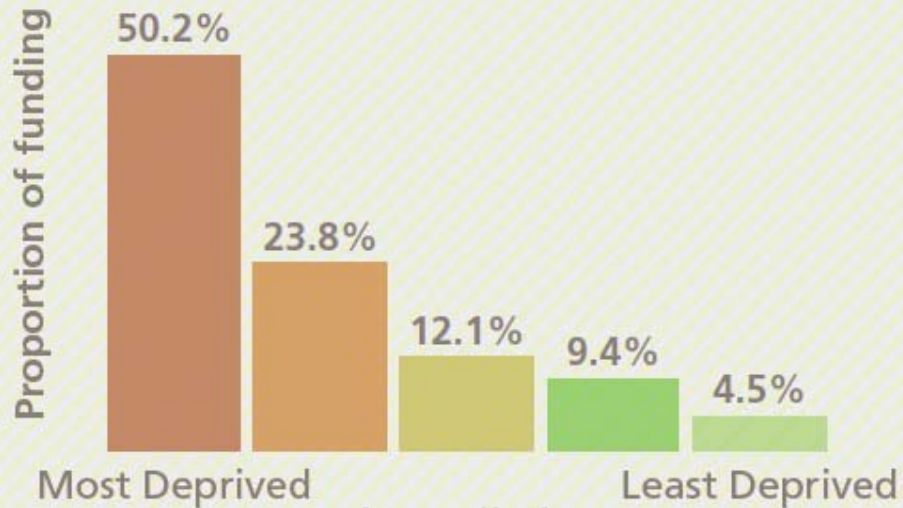
- grants from £100k to £5million
 - two annual batches
 - £24m annual budget
 - jointly with Big in England

- **Our Heritage**

- grants from £10k to £100k
 - no deadlines
 - 8 week assessment time
 - local decisions
 - no match funding required



Spend by deprivation



Increase in visitor numbers

Now




+3.7m

Predicted

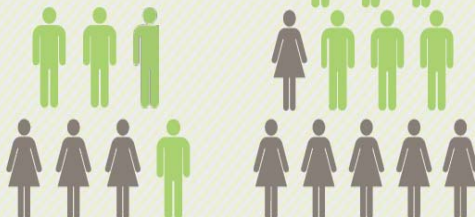


+7m

Increase in volunteer numbers

 = 500 male volunteers

 = 500 female volunteers



Baseline



Now



Target

Parks for People Programme Impact Evaluation





Coping strategies

- **Efficiencies:** reduce cost of services without changing service levels as perceived by the public
- **Investment and innovation:** reduce the need for services or reduce the cost of services in future
- **Retrenchment:** reduce the council's role in terms of the services it provides and for whom

(From Joseph Rowntree Foundation 'Coping with the cuts?')

The sector response

- Highly **variable picture** across different authorities
- General **lack of data** or a 'big picture'
- Non-traditional park organisations such as **social enterprises** taking/being asked to take a greater role
- Drive to **increase and generate new income**
- **Disposal** of parks, green spaces and buildings
- **Searching for new ideas**/not sure what to do next!

What is HLF doing?

- Greater emphasis on **maintenance** in new applications
- Supporting and monitoring projects **post completion**
- Sharing **good practice**
- Establishing **baseline evidence** of current condition and emerging challenges
 - **State of UK Public Parks** report out in June
- Encouraging and supporting **innovation**
 - *Rethinking Parks*