
REPORT TO:	HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES	AGENDA ITEM: 9
DATE OF MEETING:	5TH FEBRUARY 2004	CATEGORY: Delegated
REPORT FROM:	DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	CHRIS MASON 5794	DOC:
SUBJECT:	RESTORATION OF MAURICE LEA MEMORIAL PARK	REF: mlprestoredec03
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	GRESLEY & SWADLINCOTE	TERMS OF REFERENCE: HCS10

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Heritage Lottery Fund's (HLF) offer of grant aid of £643,500 to restore the Park is accepted and a formal contract is entered into to deliver a restoration project to the value of £977,000

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To provide details of the HLF's offer and to outline the way forward for the delivery of the project.

3.0 Detail

HLF's Offer

- 3.1 In early December 03 we received the excellent news that our Stage 2 bid for funding to restore Maurice Lea Memorial Park had been successful. The grant awarded is for £643,500 (65%) of total eligible project costs of £977,033.
- 3.2 Our Stage 2 submission was for total project costs of £1.425m, with the HLF asked to provide £1.075m (75%). Annexe A provides details of both the eligible and ineligible (as defined by the HLF) elements of the project.
- 3.3 To confirm the award the Council are required to sign a formal contract with the Trustees of the National Heritage Memorial Fund. The only specific conditions that the HLF apply to their offer are:
- HLF must be consulted on the designs for the sports facilities on the site of the Park
 - The Management Plan, submitted with the Stage 2 application to be amended in line with HLF's draft guidance on management plans.

Way Forward

- 3.4 If Members are happy to enter into a contract with the Trustees of the National Heritage Memorial Fund then the next stage is to re-appoint consultants to manage the delivery of the individual elements of the project.
- 3.5 At the meeting of 6th June 2002 Members approved a shortlist of consultants who were invited to submit bids to undertake the development work required for the Stage 2 application. It is intended to use the same list to appoint landscape consultants for the delivery element of the project. This list is attached at Annexe B for Members information
- 3.6 At the development stage, the project was overseen by a small project team comprising a local Member (ex Councillor Chris Rose), a community representative, the appointed consultant and the Grounds & Facilities Manager. It is proposed that a similar arrangement be used for the delivery element of the project. Reports will be made to this Committee at key stages in the delivery of the project.
- 3.7 At Annexe C is a draft outlined timetable for the delivery of the project. Realistically, it is unlikely that all of the elements of the project will be completed until the end of March 2005 although this may have to be amended further once the appointed consultant produces a detailed timetable.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 A one-off sum of £137,000 has been earmarked in the Council's capital programme for 2004/05, and a sum of £24,000 per year has been included in the General Fund Revenue Account from 2004/05. Although our revenue projections only look 3 years ahead at any one time, the Council has effectively earmarked resources of around £257,000 (£137,000 one-off + 5 years at £24,000). Given that the work on site is unlikely to be completed until March 2005 the allocated additional revenue funding is unlikely to be required until 2005/2006.
- 4.2 Included in the HLF's definition of eligible project costs are additional revenue costs that will be required to manage the newly restored Park. This means that over the first 5 years of the project the HLF are prepared to meet 65% of these additional costs.
- 4.3 At this stage the major task is to attract the remainder of the partnership funding identified in Annexe A. How successful we are with these applications for additional funding will influence any flexibility we may have to re-allocate already allocated funding. Efforts will also be made to try and attract the funding for some of the projects the HLF identified as ineligible. This is particularly applicable to the tree works, which were the subject of a separate detailed survey at the development stage, and the Sports Terrace.

5.0 Corporate Implications

- 5.1 The delivery of the project is a key element in Service Plans and the 'improvement plan' that has emerged from the CPA 'Public Space' diagnostic assessment.

6.0 Community Implications

- 6.1 Community involvement has been an important element in the development of the project to date. If Members are happy to accept the HLF's offer then this will be developed further with an attempt made to establish a formal 'Friends of the Park' group

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 The HLF's offer of funding provides an exciting opportunity to restore, to its original condition, a well-used community facility. The offer also represents the largest Lottery award ever made to one of the Council's own projects. Given the range of work involved in restoring the Park, it is unlikely to be fully completed until March 2005 (even this may be optimistic). A key factor now in the financial management of the project will be the amount of 'partnership' funding monies that can be attracted to the project

8.0 Background Papers

- 8.1 Offer letter from HLF dated 3rd December 2003.

