

THURSDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2017

REPORT OF THE COUNCILLOR JOY GOODALL

CASTLE HLF PROJECT UPDATE

PURPOSE

To update members on the current position of the Castle's Heritage Lottery bid project which, if successful in this development phase will allow a full refurbishment to the Tamworth Story on the upper level of the Castle.

In addition further approval is being sort, subject to the bid being successful, to procure architectural services for the Castle over a period of 3 years and the use of existing retained / revenue budgets for repairs to the Castle required within this project.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet note the current progress of the Heritage Lottery bid for the Castle and delegate authority to the Executive Director of Corporate Services to increase the Capital budget to £732,930 should the bid prove successful.

Cabinet endorse the procurement of architectural services over a period of 3 years for the Castle including delegating authority to the Corporate Director Growth, Assets & Environment to enter into contract with the most economically advantageous tenderer, after consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Culture and the Solicitor to the Council.

Cabinet approve the use of existing retained /revenue budgets to complete repairs work as necessary in this project.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following the previous successful phase one application to the Heritage Lottery fund in June 2015 a number of work streams have taken place with these secured funds to allow the submission of a second round application to refurbish the Tamworth Story display housed in the upper floor of the Castle.

Alongside the bid process there have been may work streams to ensure maintenance of the historic fabric of the Castle has been ongoing.

Some of these streams of work require the input of professional conservation accredited architects with a solid historic buildings repair background, and each of these work streams has required individual procurement that has been time consuming and costly to Tamworth Borough Council.

To ensure that the Castle is in a position to maintain its service, protect and conserve the building, be cost effective and ease the delivery of the new build for the Tamworth

story should the second round bid be successful, it is proposed that architectural services should be procured for a period of 3 years. This would also satisfy the funding needs of the Heritage Lottery.

The successful procured architects would be retained on an as required basis to enable use during the three year period.

Financial obligations to meet such demands will be met from existing revenue and retained building repairs budgets and the Heritage lottery funds should the bid be successful.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

1. Do nothing – however this would leave the Castle at risk of decay and loss of reputation as a tourist attraction
2. Continue to apply for additional funds.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Should the bid prove to be successful a project team will be required to manage the project. This team will consist of external procured professionals in line with the bid requirements and Tamworth Borough Council’s management staff. Once building work has commenced the Castle will be closed to the public for a period of time which is currently unknown and therefore capacity can be directed to perform this role.

Financial Resources

The proposed project has been costed and the current value of the scheme is £ 732,930. At the stage of first submission the cost was estimated at £605,250. The increase in costs is largely due to costs escalating within the building trade, additional repairs necessary as enabling works, and new costs imposed by Staffordshire Hoard collection care in relation to the Hoard display cases. The second round application is based on worse case at this point

	2018/19 Approved Budget	Revised Budget
Estimated Cost	605,250	732,930
Funding Available		
GF Cap Rec	86,100	86,100
HRA Cap Rec	38,900	38,900
HLF	470,250	499,900
Friends of Castle	10,000	15,000
BRF		46,030
Castle Structural Repairs Retained Fund		10,000
Castle Accessions Fund		10,000
Ready to Borrow		27,000
Total Funding Available	605,250	732,930
Budget Shortfall	0	0

The revised application seeks to maximise funding from Heritage Lottery with proposed contribution levels of Heritage Lottery 68%, Tamworth Borough Council 26 % and external funds secured at 6 % of the total project cost. The revenue implications for future years of the scheme will be considered as part of the Capital Budget Process for 2018/19 should the bid prove successful .

In addition to the Heritage Lottery funds, and Tamworth Borough Council's funds officers have also secured funds up to £42,000 as follows

Tamworth Friends of the Castle £15,000

Museums Ready to Borrow Scheme £27 000

Ready to Borrow Scheme

During the design of the refurbishment officers were advised that the current cabinets housing the Saxon Hoard were no longer fit for purpose. This advice had the potential to add in excess of £30 000 to the project cost causing financial concern however officers have secured funds from the National Museums Ready to Borrow Scheme to totally fund this element of the works and to ensure the Saxon Hoard remains a prominent part of the display.

Alongside the development of the funding bid the service has continued to maintain the asset with a number of procurements being undertaken. The architectural requirements for such work are a specialised trade and the number of external companies that can fulfil conservation grade requirements is extremely limited. To streamline future Architectural requirements for repairs and the installation of the refurbishment it is proposed these services be procured on a 3 year basis on an as and when need basis up to a maximum of £140,000. The Castle currently has revenue and retained funds to finance such needs.

LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS BACKGROUND

1. Tamworth Borough Council will need to adhere to HLF's legal requirements throughout the term of the project including requirements for procurement.
2. If funding isn't successful there is a risk that Tamworth Castle would lose its reputational standing as a significant heritage tourist attraction for Staffordshire, suffer due to aging facilities, infrastructure and outdated interpretation which in turn would affect product delivery.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

It is expected that a new facility /attraction will increase footfall and income to the Castle which in turn will allow the continued maintenance and development of the attraction to be sustained.

It is predicted that the footfall in 2019/20 will increase by 23% from 40,615 visitors to 49,960 following the refurbishment.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Castle has remained a major tourist attraction over the years and has enjoyed success at national award events. In order to maintain and develop its offer to the public it is vital for the Castle to continue to change with current times in relation to the package it offers and to be mindful of aging attractions within the service. With

this in mind a decision was taken to refurbish and modernise the attraction in the Castle known as the Tamworth Story. The vision is to improve the customer experience and offer a modern new exciting interaction attraction that also covers the heritage element of the Castle and the history of Tamworth. The new design would also continue to incorporate the display of the Saxon Hoard.

In June 2015 an application was made to the Heritage Lottery Fund to fund a stage one project to develop a possible refurbishment package. The Castle was successful in obtaining these funds and has been working with appointed professional bodies to design a possible new attraction within the upper level of the Castle.

This work has now progressed to the Stage that the Heritage Lottery have encouraged Tamworth Castle to submit a second stage application to install the newly designed exhibition.

The exhibition is entitled Battle and Tribute and explores the battle connections between the Saxon Hoard and the warring tribal communities that settled around Tamworth in the Saxon period, who formed the Kingdom of Mercia. The design is very interactive and has a number of new elements including an immersive combat film experience and a touch screen battle game. During the development a number of public consultations have been undertaken and feedback has been very encouraging.

The second stage bid has been submitted and the Castle will be informed of the outcome in October / November 2017.

REPORT AUTHOR

Should Members require any further information on this report please contact Neil Mason x568

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/a