

THURSDAY, 25 JANUARY 2018

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE**TAMWORTH CASTLE HLF PROJECT AUTHORISATION****PURPOSE**

To update cabinet on the Heritage Lottery Funded Battle and Tribute Exhibition Project at Tamworth Castle and to seek approval to enter into second stage contracts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Cabinet acknowledges the Chief Operating Officer has entered into second stage contract with the Heritage Lottery Fund and accepted the terms of the grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.
2. Cabinet authorises the Chief Operating Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Culture & Environment to enter into contract with the successful tenderer for the role of project designer for the design, delivery and installation of Battle and Tribute Exhibition.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Tamworth Borough Council was notified in November that the Heritage Lottery Fund have awarded £499,900 to the Battle and Tribute Exhibition Project at Tamworth Castle. The project will see the redevelopment of the top floor of Tamworth Castle into a state of the art, engaging and interactive exhibition celebrating Tamworth important Anglo-Saxon history and showcasing the internationally significant Staffordshire Hoard. At the Cabinet meeting of 28th September 2017 delegated authority was granted to accept and spend the Heritage Lottery Fund grant.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Tamworth Borough Council does not have the expertise in-house to carry out the design and installation of a large scale exhibition such as this. Therefore it will be necessary to appoint further contractors with the necessary expertise to carry out the work. Due to the size and nature of the project there are many specialist roles which are needed and to appoint all of these directly would be a significant burden on the castle team and the procurement team. It is therefore proposed that an exhibition design company will be appointed as lead contractor who will then directly appoint subcontractors to complete exhibition.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Tamworth Borough Council have committed £191,000 in match funding to support this project with £50,000 coming from existing Tamworth Castle budgets and £141,000 coming from the original Capital Allocation intended to support this project. A further £42,000 has been donated to the project from two funders, The Friends of Tamworth Castle and West Midlands Museum Development.

Within the total budget the allocation for the project designer, including fees for resources and subcontractors required to deliver the project, is £330,000. An additional £147,000 is allocated to specialist interactive and multimedia developers who will also be managed by the project designer.

LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS BACKGROUND

Tamworth Borough Council will be bound by the terms of the grant set out by the Heritage Lottery fund.

The risk is that if we do not accept this funding it could lead to long term decline of the visitor appeal of the castle, a reduction in revenue and a detrimental effect on the fabric of the building.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The project seeks to refurbish and contribute to the long term future of Tamworth Castle.

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 interactive 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 worked with appointed professional bodies to design a possible new attraction within the upper level of the Castle. 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 application to Heritage Lottery Fund for full funding of the project was submitted in August 2017 and has now been confirmed as successful.

REPORT AUTHOR

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report to Cabinet, "Castle HLF project update" _28th September 2017

APPENDICES