

DATE OF COMMITTEE

17 th October 2012

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
ENTERPRISE**Tamworth Castle HLF update and Finance release****EXEMPT INFORMATION**

None

PURPOSE

To update members on the project building works at the Castle and to seek approval for the release of additional funds provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

RECOMMENDATIONS**That Members**

- 1. Note the progress of the project building works to date;**
- 2. Approve the increase in the budget for the Castle Capital Scheme by £364,650 to be met wholly from additional HLF Grant funding to enable the work to be completed.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2008 cabinet approval was given for Tamworth castle to progress a bid to the Heritage Lottery fund to enable essential work to be carried out to the Castle ensuring that Tamworth Borough Council was seen to be investing in its cultural facilities and clearly demonstrating a will to sustain, manage and conserve the heritage infrastructure.

The bid submitted comprised of the stabilisation of the perimeter path and access steps across the motte; clearance and hydroseeding of the motte including sympathetic fencing; levelling work in the entrance and courtyard to the Castle and Norman exhibition; remodelling of the reception, toilets; development of new interpretation panels around the perimeter paths and within the Castle.

In 2008 Cabinet approved the progression of the bid and approved the release of £20,000 to enable professional architect to help develop the second stage process of the bid .Between this date and 2012 a great deal of consultation, interaction with professional advisors has taken place ensuring that Tamworth Council met all requirements and milestones of the bidding process. The Council submitted a second round HLF bid in 2011

The second round castle bid fulfilled the HLF strategic aims and was awarded £876,200 from the HLF which is £364,650 more than original capital scheme approved by Cabinet in 2008.

In the summer of 2012 work began on the Castle and the project staff have advised that all work is on schedule with the agreed timetable and completion date of 1/2/2013 still being achievable. During the current stage of works it is interesting to note that the Medieval arch and flooring have been uncovered which will enhance the castle and its customer experience. The team at the castle continue to provide regular updates via media and other channels on progress.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

In 2008 Cabinet approved an amount of £787,000 for the original capital scheme for the Castle which included an amount of £511,550 to be funded by HLF Grant. Based on the final second round application submitted by the Council in 2011 the Heritage Lottery Fund agreed to provide a total of £876,200 in grant funding. This is £364,650 more than the 2008 approval. Consequently Cabinet approval is required to increase the capital budget by £364,650.

LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS BACKGROUND

There are no further risks identified at present with the project that haven't previously been identified

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable to this report – existing and future internal budgets will sustain this development and any future projects

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Cabinet 2008 (July)

REPORT AUTHOR

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

As per previous reports

APPENDICES

N/A