

		<b>AGENDA ITEM NO.</b>	
<b>Report Cover Sheet</b>			
<b>Name of Meeting:</b>		Executive	
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>		11 <sup>th</sup> February 2008	
<b>Report Title:</b>		St Nicholas Park Warwick Heritage Lottery Bid	
<b>Summary of report:</b>		To request approval to submit a Stage One Heritage Lottery Bid for St Nicholas Park in Warwick.	
<b>For Further Information Please Contact (report author):</b>		Nigel Bishop	
<b>Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Policy Framework:</b>		No	
<b>Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budgetary framework:</b>		No	
<b>Wards of the District directly affected by this decision:</b>		Warwick	
<b>Key Decision?</b>		No	
<b>Included within the Forward Plan?</b>		No (If Yes, include reference number)	
<b>Is the report Private &amp; Confidential</b>		no	
<b>Background Papers:</b>		Executive March 2007; Executive June 2007;	
<b>Consultation Undertaken</b>			
<p>Below is a table of the Council's regular consultees. However not all have to be consulted on every matter and if there was no obligation to consult with a specific consultee they will be marked as n/a.</p>			
<b>Consultees</b>	<b>Yes/ No</b>	<b>Who</b>	
Other Committees	No		
Ward Councillors			
Portfolio Holders	Yes	Chris White	
Other Councillors			
Warwick District Council recognised Trades Unions	No		
Other Warwick District Council Service Areas			
Project partners	yes	Warwickshire County Council	
Parish/Town Council		Warwick Town Council	
Highways Authority			
Residents		Residents Associations; Representatives of interest groups	
Citizens Panel			
Other consultees		General Public	
<b>Officer Approval</b>			
<p>With regard to officer approval all reports must be approved by the report authors relevant director, Finance Services and Legal Services.</p>			
<b>Officer Approval</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	
Relevant Director(s)			
Chief Executive		Chris Elliott	
CMT			
Section 151 Officer			
Legal			

Finance		Roger Wyton, Mary Hawkins
<b>Final Decision?</b>		Yes
<b>Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)</b>		

## **1. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 1.1 To approve the submission of a stage one bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for improvements and enhancements to St Nicholas Park Warwick under the Parks for People scheme
- 1.2 To receive a further report on the success of the stage one bid and the project plan and proposed financing to achieve a stage two submission if successful.

## **2. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Executive have previously agreed to the development of a stage one HLF bid and to the postponement of the submission of that bid to allow for consultation with interested parties.
- 2.2 The level of consultation on the proposals for inclusion in the bid has been extensive as has the degree of community involvement in commenting on the proposals. It is now agreed by all interested parties that the Executive should be asked to approve putting the bid forward.

## **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTION CONSIDERED**

- 3.1 The alternative option is not to submit an HLF bid which would mean that the resources available to enhance the park would be limited to the maintenance funding that is currently available from the District Council.

## **4. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 4.1 At this stage there is no commitment from the District Council for any additional funds beyond the £210,000 capital already allocated,, but not yet contractually committed, to the project.
- 4.2 The bid value is £2.4m but this requires match funding of £600,000. At the time of writing there is some uncertainty as to whether the HLF will consider the work already undertaken in the park as qualifying match funding. Discussions are still continuing. The County Council have indicated their interest in the project; following the decision of the Executive formal consultations with the County will be concluded to seek their formal commitment and ascertain the potential for matched funding.
- 4.3 The Council itself has little prospect of additional capital receipts to fund this project. The position of the revenue budget is such that it cannot easily borrow and incur additional revenue loan costs. There is a risk therefore that if the bid is successful the additional finance that may be needed (if matched funding is not found from elsewhere) cannot be found within from the Council's resources.
- 4.4 An assessment will need to be made of any additional running costs arising from the enhancements, and the Council will need to make adequate provision for these if it is able fund the capital enhancements. In this context members' attention is drawn to the budget report elsewhere on this agenda that highlights that over the next few years the Council has to find significant net budget savings.
- 4.5 If the Council is successful in the stage one bid then full details of the project will be developed for stage two which will need to be submitted by September 2009. A further report would be brought to the Executive in October 2008 detailing the size of the bid and

the work required to develop the stage two submission; including the outcomes of final discussions over matched funding

## **5. POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 This project has supported the Councils previous policy of improving the quality and accessibility of open spaces and contributes to other objectives relating to supporting a prosperous mixed economy , providing a cleaner and greener environment and promoting a healthier lifestyle. It supports the proposed new corporate Strategy objective to create thriving town centres, keep pleasant villages and make the district an attractive place to live and work

## **6. BACKGROUND**

- 6.1 The council initially set out to obtain external funding to improve a range of facilities in Warwick that came together as a Warwick Parks and Gardens Project. However with advice from the Heritage Lottery Fund it became apparent that a single bid to the Parks for People fund was the route most likely to achieve success.
- 6.2 Over the last year considerable consultation has taken place with interested parties and the general public to gain feedback on the proposals for the bid. Significant changes have been made to the proposals as a result of the feedback received to date. The final proposals were made available to all registered groups in the form of a CD and final comments were received by the middle of January.
- 6.3 In the summer of 2007 a specific site was set up on the District Council website to include all of the information that had been collected during the project and to keep the public informed of the progress towards the bid. Three newsletters have also been produced and distributed to the registered groups.
- 6.4 The project has been divided into five parts to reflect the differing needs and wants of the park users:
- The Heritage Gateway - which includes St John's House approach and Garden and the brook link between St Johns and St Nicholas Park
  - The Formal Park – which includes improvements to paths; buildings; the car park; the formal gardens and the boat house
  - Events and Activities Zone – which includes improved play adventure play; better toilet provision and maintenance of the open parkland character
  - The Riverside Walk – which includes introducing meadow grassland for improved biodiversity; footpath improvements and interpretation information
  - The Community Park – which includes ornamental planting; community play area and picnic area and disabled access car parking for Kingfisher pools
- 6.5 The timetable for the bid process is:
- February 2008 Executive approval
  - March 2008 HLF Bid submitted
  - September 2008 Results of Bid known
  - September 2009 Stage 2 bid submitted
  - March 2010 Stage 2 awarded
  - September 2011 Work commences
  - March 2013 Work completed
- 6.6 Ten written responses representing both individuals, community organisations, the Town Council and the County Council have been received. These have provided some very detailed and some general requests for alterations to the plan as well as support for the proposals. Each one will be considered as part of the stage one bid and be responded to in the detailed planning stage two of the bid process.

- 6.7 The proposals for the stage one bid are available on CD (if requested) and on the Council's website under: leisure and culture/parks and recreation/ major parks/ St Nicholas Park.