

Title	Pump Room Gardens Conservation Project
For further information about this report please contact	Ian Coker ian.coker@warwickdc.gov.uk
Wards of the District directly affected	Clarendon
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	
Background Papers	PRG Conservation Statement

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No
Equality & Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken	No

Officer/Councillor Approval

Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	15 th Oct	Bill Hunt
Head of Service	16 th Oct	Ian Coker
CMT		
Section 151 Officer	15 th Oct	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer		
Finance	15 th Oct	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	15 th Oct	Dave Shilton / Stephen Cross

Consultation & Community Engagement

Detailed consultation with the Pump Room Gardens Conservation Group

Final Decision?	yes
Further report produced once management plan has been agreed.	

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report updates members on the work of the Pump Room Conservation Group with whom officers have been working for the last 18 months and asks them to agree to the way forward outlined in the conservation statement.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Executive agrees to endorse the Pump Room Gardens Conservation Statement set out in Appendix 1 so this can be used as a framework to produce a conservation management plan by officers and the Pump Rooms Conservation Group.
- 2.2 Executive agrees to officers working with the Pump Room Gardens Conservation Group to update the Pump Room Gardens grounds maintenance plan which would then be implemented as part of the new Grounds Maintenance contract.
- 2.3 Executive agrees to officers working with the Pump Room Gardens Conservation Group to prioritise long-term improvements to the Pump Room Gardens as identified in the Conservation Statement and to identify where and how, by working together, the funding to deliver those improvements can be sought.

3. **REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 Clear evidence of partnership working between the Council and the PRCG, together with the endorsement of the Conservation Statement, is required to enable the PRCG to seek external funding. Such a commitment would increase the likelihood of the group being able to make successful bids.
- 3.2 A grounds maintenance plan is already in place for the Pump Room Gardens. However, the plan would benefit from the work which the Pump Room Gardens Conservation Group has undertaken and could help inform the production of a revised plan.
- 3.3 A number of potential improvements to the Pump Room Gardens are identified in the Conservation Statement, all of which will require to be funded. Some of those projects would benefit from working with local groups who can put together bids for external funding which would not be accessible to the Council itself.

4. **POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 4.1 **Policy Framework** – No changes to the policies would result from accepting the Conservation Statement.
- 4.2 **Fit for the Future** – Working with the Pump Room Gardens Conservation Group to deliver improvements to the Pump Room Gardens is in line with the principles of FFF.

5. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

- 5.1 The current management plan is already funded within the Grounds Maintenance contract. It is not anticipated that any changes to that plan as a result of endorsing the Conservation Statement would increase the cost of undertaking grounds maintenance for the area.
- 5.2 The Council would expect to make funds available to fund general maintenance of the Pump Room Gardens from the Corporate Repair and Maintenance Budget. Given the increasing demands on that budget it would not be able to fund all the works identified in the Conservation Statement. As a result, other funding mechanisms are required if these conservation measures are to be delivered. External funding played a critical role in delivering the Linden Arches project and the same model could therefore be used to help deliver this project.
- 5.3 There are a number of improvements to the Pump Room Gardens identified in the Conservation Statement. Some of these will require significant funding. By working with local interest groups, who are able to apply for external funding, these projects could be delivered more quickly than if the Council were to fund these projects itself.
- 5.4 Any proposals that cannot be accommodated within agreed budgets will need to be subject to future consideration by members.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTION CONSIDERED

- 6.1 To ignore the Conservation Statement produced by the Pump Room Gardens Conservation Group. This was rejected as most of the recommendations are in line with the Council's existing thinking and policies. In order to deliver some of the improvements identified, a partnership approach would enable additional funding to be drawn down to help fund the improvements which would not be available if the Council was to fund these projects alone.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 The Pump Room Gardens Conservation Group, a group of local volunteers, was formed to raise awareness and understanding about the Pump Room Gardens. The group received Heritage Lottery Funding in December 2010 in order to produce a learning pack for primary schools, a public exhibition, an oral history project focussed on local people's memories of life in the Gardens and the development of a Conservation Statement for the long term management of the park.
- 7.2 The Conservation Group has produced a Conservation Statement and this has been shared with the Council. See Appendix 1. The majority of the recommendations in the Conservation Statement are in line with Council policies.
- 7.3 Initial discussions between the Conservation Group and Officers have taken place. A Working Group now needs to be established in order to

identify what conservation work should be prioritised, when it can be delivered and how funding can be brought together to deliver the recommendations.

- 7.4 The main recommendations in the Conservation Statement are to further improve the quality and enjoyment of the park. The top priorities are to encourage more use of the bandstand, encourage more cultural events and provide more seating.
- 7.5 The main conservation items identified are the restoration of the bandstand, restoration of York Bridge and the two "bath chair" ramps, to replant missing Lime Trees at the west end of Linden Avenue and to resurface the paths with bound gravel.
- 7.6 The Conservation Statement also identifies further improvements to the wildlife corridor; the top priorities to create a wild flower meadow along the riverbank; erect bat boxes in younger trees and undertake coppicing of trees adjacent to the river.
- 7.7 The Executive approved in April 2012 the Locality Improvement Plan which included an indicative cost of £94k for improvements to the Pump Room Gardens including pollarding of trees along the river bank, the bath-chair ramp and wild flower planting which is further evidence of us working together to make improve where required maintain the standards in the area
- 7.8 The Conservation Statement has benefited from the full involvement of officers in its production.