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|  Executive 10th July 2013 | | Agenda Item No. 4 |
| Title | Pump Room Gardens Parks for People project | |
| For further information about this report please contact | David Anderson X6214 david.anderson@warwickdc.gov.uk | |
| Wards of the District directly affected | Leamington 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| Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?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 | Executive 12 th November 2012 - Pump Room Gardens Conservation Project | |
| Background Papers | | |

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| Contrary to the policy framework: | No |
| Contrary to the budgetary framework: | No |
| Key Decision? | Yes |
| Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number) | Yes (Ref 518) |
| Equality & Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken | No (If No state why below) |
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| Officer/Councillor Approval | | |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Officer Approval | Date | Name |
| Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive | 6 th June 2013 | Chris Elliot |
| Head of Service | 30 th May 2013 | Ian Coker |
| CMT | 18 th June 2013 | |
| Section 151 Officer | | Mike Snow |
| Monitoring Officer | 24 th June 2013 | Andrew Jones |
| Finance | 6 th June 2013 | Mike Snow |
| Portfolio Holder(s) | 21 st June 2013 | Cllr David Shilton |
| Consultation & Community Engagement | | |
| Detailed consultation with the Pump Room Gardens Conservation Group | | |
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| Final Decision? | | Yes |
| Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below) | | |

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Following the successful renewal of Linden Arches within the Pump Room Gardens and the Council's endorsement of its 'Conservation Statement', the Council has been approached by the Friends of Pump Room Gardens to further improve this open space and to apply for further funding. This report seeks the approval to submit a first-round Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Parks for People bid to restore and enhance the remainder of the open space, and for the approval of £100,000 as partnership funding towards the project.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Executive approves the development and submission of a first-round application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Parks for People for the Pump Room Gardens.
- 2.2 That subject to a successful first-round application, Executive approves funding of £100,000 appropriated from the Service Transformation Reserve to partnership fund the HLF grant for the development of the project.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The HLF Parks for People fund provides the opportunity for major capital investment into the Pump Room Gardens to conserve and restore the heritage features within it, while broadening the range and number of activities.
- 3.2 The Pump Room Gardens is one of several public parks in Leamington Spa, linked by a riverside walk along the River Leam. These parks and gardens are known as the "Spa Gardens" and are of significant heritage and recreational value. Four were designed and laid out between 1814 and 1903 and are designated as Grade II on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England (Reference No. GD1471).
- 3.3 The Pump Room Gardens is currently maintained as an urban open space, with some of the historical features lost or in a poor condition. Surviving historic features that require improving include the bandstand and York Bridge and its approaches. The historic features that have been lost and need replacing include trees, general landscaping and seating. There is also the need to improve drainage across the open space and further opportunities to enhance wildlife.
- 3.4 These works will enhance the area as a focal point for residents and visitors alike for activities and events, and will complete the restoration work started with the renewal of the Linden Arches in 2012. It would also complement the neighbouring restored Jephson Gardens and Mill Gardens which were also partly funded through HLF.
- 3.5 By improving the Pump Room Gardens and the links between the Spa Gardens to the town centre, it is anticipated this will be beneficial to the local economy especially with the arrival of the Men's National Bowls at Victoria Park.
- 3.6 A condition of HLF Parks for People funding is to have match funding, known as 'partnership funding' equivalent to at least 10% of project costs when applying for grant of £1million or more. A contribution from the Council will also attract further donations and grants for the Friends of Pump Room Gardens, who have

a successful track record of sourcing funding as can be demonstrated by the Linden Arches project.

- 3.7 Officers will be approaching Leamington Town Council to seek their willingness to support this project. It is believed that the partnership funding combined will meet and exceed the requirements of the HLF Parks for People, and will strengthen the bid.

4. **POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 4.1 **Policy Framework** – No changes to the policies would result from approving the recommendations.
- 4.2 **Fit for the Future** – Working in partnership with the Friends of the Pump Room Gardens to deliver improvements to the Pump Room Gardens through an HLF Parks for People bid is in line with the principles of FFF.

5. **BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 Securing external funding through partnership working is identified in the Green Space Strategy as one of the ways to improve the quality of green space across the District.
- 5.2 Early estimates of the capital works required are in excess of £1million. The estimated cost will be finalised by the first-round application date. HLF Parks for People application guidance states that applicants make a contribution towards the project. This is described as 'partnership funding' and it can be made up of cash, volunteer time, non-cash contributions, or a combination of all of these. Some of the partnership funding must be from the organisation's resources.
- 5.3 The Heritage Lottery Fund encourages carefully prepared bid for improvements to public parks provided there is strong support by the community in the form of donations from local sources. It is the aim of The Friends of The Pump Room Gardens to contribute £50,000 towards the match funding, and they have already raised £20,000. The Friends are presently seeking pledges to be redeemed when all the funding for the project has been raised. Council officers are confident that they will meet their target, but this cannot be guaranteed.
- 5.4 Warwickshire County Council is responsible for York Bridge and the adopted highway within the Pump Room Gardens and have attended meetings with Warwick District Council and the Friends of The Pump Room Gardens. The County have indicated their interest in the project but have not formally committed any funding to the project.
- 5.5 The Executive approved in April 2012 the Locality Improvement Plan which included a contribution for improvements to the Pump Room Gardens.
- 5.6 The guidance from HLF representatives and the knowledge of other successful first-round applications is that match funding should exceed the 10% requirement. For that reason it is proposed that The Council should contribute £100,000 together with the £50,000 from the Friends totalling £150,000 as the partnership funding. Therefore from the Councils perspective, its proposed investment of £100,000 could generate investment of around £1million. This approximates a £10 return for every £1 invested.

- 5.7 If the Council is successful in the first-round application then fully costed details of the project will be developed for the second-round application. A further report would be brought to the Executive detailing the size of the bid and the work required to develop the second-round application, including final discussion over match funding.
- 5.8 An assessment will need to be made of any additional revenue maintenance costs arising from the enhancements, and the Council will need to make adequate provision following the delivery of the project. These costs will be calculated at as part of the development phase and will be reported back to a future Executive. At this stage it is estimated that any additional revenue for grounds maintenance would be small and could be accommodated within existing budgets.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S) CONSIDERED

- 6.1 The alternative is not to submit an HLF bid which would mean losing a fairly unique opportunity for external funding to improve the Pump Room Gardens.
- 6.2 Another option is to submit a reduced scheme requesting a smaller grant. However this would reduce the impact of the project or other funding opportunities would need to be sourced elsewhere to make the necessary improvements. This may prove difficult in the present economic climate.
- 6.3 A further option is to source alternative heritage related grants offered under HLF, but these grants are greatly reduced and would not address the identified improvements required.
- 6.4 Finally if the Council were not to apply for the funding then the many assets within the Pump Room Gardens will continue to be a financial liability to the Council requiring further repairs and maintenance.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 On the 12th November 2012 the Executive agreed to endorse the Pump Room Gardens Conservation Statement, which sets out a number of recommendations to restore some of the heritage features while increasing activities.
- 7.2 The report also agreed for officers to work in partnership with the Pump Room Gardens Conservation Group to prioritise and cost the long-term improvements required, as identified in the Conservation Statement, and to identify where and how the funding to deliver those improvements could be found.
- 7.3 One funding option considered by this partnership was the re-launched Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Parks for People. HLF representatives were invited to visit the Pump Room Gardens in December 2012 with Council Officers and Friends of the Pump Room Gardens (formerly known as Pump Room Gardens Conservation Group).
- 7.4 The purpose of this visit was to assess its suitability for a Parks for People grant. The advice from the HLF representatives was that a first-round application could be submitted, subject to approval by Warwick District Council as the major landowner. If a first-round application is proved successful then the HLF would provide a development grant for the initial development and

scoping of the project, prior to a second-round application. The detail of the first-round application to the HLF is currently being developed with partners.

7.5 The proposed improvements to The Pump Room Gardens would include

- Restore the bandstand to its original glory
- Renovate York bridge and its approaches on both sides of the river
- Drain the waterlogged area to make it usable for longer periods
- Install new drains for the paths
- Replant the riverbank so as to encourage wildlife while in keeping with the listed garden
- Replace missing trees along Linden Avenue and elsewhere
- Improve the lighting
- Increase the seating along Linden Avenue and around the bandstand
- Resurface the paths

7.6 Pump Room Gardens Conservation Group and partners undertook extensive consultation to develop the Pump Room Gardens Conservation Statement which helped to inform the improvement proposals listed above. If a first-round application is approved by the HLF then further consultation will be undertaken as part of the development stage.

7.7 The timetable for the bid process

Initial meeting with HLF representatives (completed)

HLF first-round application – 31st August 2013

Results of first-round application – December 2013

HLF second-round application – 31st August 2014

HLF second-round awarded – December 2014

Work commences – March 2015

Work completed – for the summer of 2017

7.8 Parks for People is a three-year joint initiative between Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund (BIG) to help with the restoration and regeneration of public parks and gardens. It offers a grant of between £100,000 and £5 million to be released over a phased period. Development grants are also available to assist in initial bid planning and development stages. The level of development grant required will be determined at first-round stage.

7.9 Heritage Lottery Fund Parks for People support projects that make a lasting difference to heritage, people and communities in the UK. The assessment process is competitive and they cannot fund all of the good-quality applications that they receive.

7.10 The Pump Room Gardens is a focal point in the centre of Leamington Spa, being located on the Parade and forming the setting to the Royal Pump Room and Baths listed building. It functions as the 'Village Green' for the local community and a wide and diverse range of community activities take place in the gardens throughout the year, including regular farmers' markets and annual events such as fairs and the Peace Festival.

7.11 The Pump Room Gardens are open to the public 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year and are well loved and well used.