

REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE



DATE	24th July 2012
PORTFOLIO	Leisure and Culture
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Thompson Park; Parks for People Funding Application

PURPOSE

1. To seek authority of the Executive to submit an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund's 'Parks for People' programme.

RECOMMENDATION

2. The Executive is recommended to authorise the Head of Green Spaces and Amenities to prepare and submit a Stage 1 application to the Heritage Lottery Fund's 'Parks for People' programme.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. The authority of the Executive is required to submit a grant application that exceeds £50,000.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

4. Thompson Park was conceived in 1920 when James Witham Thompson left £50,000 in his will for the Council to build a public park to; "provide pleasant walks and sitting areas and to promote more active leisure pursuits for adults and children". Construction of the park provided work for the unemployed and the park was finally opened in July 1930.
5. Thompson Park remains a very popular and valuable amenity for local people, containing one of the few remaining public paddling pools, a boating lake, ornamental gardens, a play area and a recently developed miniature railway. There is an active friends group and the park was one of the first in the UK to receive a Green Flag Award.
6. However, the condition of many of the built features in the park is deteriorating and considerable investment will be required to maintain and restore these features in the coming years. For example, last autumn the thirty two stone columns in the Italian

Garden were dismantled after four of the columns blew down in strong winds. Earlier this summer the opening of the paddling pool was delayed whilst temporary repairs were carried out, much to the dismay of local children eager to use the pool during the brief spell of hot weather.

7. The Heritage Lottery Fund's 'Parks For People' programme offers grants of up to £5 million for projects that meet all of the five outcomes;
 1. Increasing range of audiences
 2. Conserving and improving heritage
 3. Increasing the range of volunteers involved
 4. Improving skills through knowledge and training
 5. Improving management and maintenance
8. The application is a four-stage process and permission is sought to submit a pre-application enquiry and stage 1 application. If the stage 1 application is successful the Council is likely to be offered a development grant that would allow a detailed stage 2 application to be prepared.
9. At this stage the value of the application is not known but may be in the region of £1-2 million. For grants up to £1 million the Council would need to find 5% match funding from our own or other sources and for grants above £1 million a 10% contribution is required. This can include in-kind services, materials and equipment, volunteer time and third party grants, etc.
10. The application process is highly competitive and the limited amount of funding available is oversubscribed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

11. There are no financial implications to report at this stage. If the stage 1 and stage 2 applications are successful, the earliest the project would be likely to commence is 2014.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

12. Recommendation GS12 of the Green Spaces Strategy identifies that Conserving the heritage of Burnley's Parks is a priority and identifies Thompson Park as requiring investment

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

13. Executive Member for Leisure and Culture
Friends of Thompson and Queens Park

BACKGROUND PAPERS

14. File held at cemetery Offices, 93 Rossendale Road, Burnley

FURTHER INFORMATION**PLEASE CONTACT:****Simon Goff****ALSO:****Mick Cartledge**