

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE



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PORTFOLIO	Leisure
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**Memorial Park, Padiham
Application to the Heritage Lottery Fund - Parks for People Programme**

PURPOSE

1. To seek approval from the Executive to release a budget of £ 44,000 within the Capital Programme 2008/09 for this scheme to support the project planning work.
2. Seek approval to submit a stage 1 application to the HLF Parks for People Programme at the end of September 2008.

RECOMMENDATION

3. The Executive is recommended to release a budget of £44,000 for 2008/9 and move the remaining budget of £53,999 into 2009/10.
4. That the Executive approves the submission of the stage 1 application to the Heritage Lottery Fund's Parks for People Programme.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

5. Capital Programme budgets that exceed £50,000 require release approval from the Executive.
6. All grant applications exceeding £50,000 require Executive approval.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

7. **Background**
8. At the meeting on the 28th November 2006 (minute No 104) the Executive:
 - Supported an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund to facilitate the restoration of

Memorial Park, Padiham.

- Gave 'in principle' support for an application to the Council's 5-year capital programme for £120,000 for the scheme.

And subsequently supported the proposal with an allocation of £120,000 within the Capital Programme 2007-2012.

9. An application was made to the HLF in March 2007 for a project-planning grant to help support the development of necessary documents for a stage 1 application. This application was successful and in September 2007 the council was awarded a project-planning grant of £42,860, with a cash contribution of £7,000 from BBC. Ryder Landscape consultants were appointed to prepare a stage 1 application
10. This funding allowed for the appointment of Ryder Landscape Consultants to help generate the required documentation to help support the bid.
11. **Summary of Stage 1 Application**
12. Extensive consultation has been undertaken with the Friends of Memorial Park, members of Padiham Town Council, the residents of Padiham and other interested groups
 - Three public consultation sessions were held in the park
 - Questionnaires completed by every primary school child in Padiham plus adult questionnaire sent home to parents
 - Officers/stakeholders meeting in the Town Hall
 - Non/user surveys undertaken within Padiham
13. The main issues identified include:
 - The importance of Memorial Park to low income families in Padiham who do not have the means to access other recreational provision outside of Padiham
 - The park would be visited more, and people would spend more time there if facilities were better and there were more things to do
 - Poor condition of public toilets, children play areas
 - Concerns about poor access
 - Perception issues of the area that the park covers, and what it contains
 - Traffic and safety issues connected to Park Rd
14. The key findings from these consultation sessions have driven the identified improvement proposals:
 - Restoration of the War Memorial
 - Upgrading of play facilities in the upper park aimed at 0-8 year olds
 - Redeveloping the existing play area on Park Rd as a destination play space aimed at 0-16 year olds
 - Replacing the public toilets and replacing with disabled access facility
 - Relocating the ball court to the rear of the Leisure Centre to provide additional car parking for the leisure centre users
 - Providing new skate boarding and seating areas for teenagers
 - New covered performance structure and seating allowing for the development of diverse programme of performances
 - Horticultural improvements with additional tree and ornamental plantings

- Volunteer programme and activities for people to get involved in the management and supervision of the park
15. The proposals above include links between the park and the new Linear park, which will significantly improve access to the park from, all areas of Padiham, particularly those that have little open space provision.
16. **Additional Documentation**
17. The project planning process has also enabled the creation of keys documents that are needed to support the bid. These include:
- Conservation Management Plan
 - Training and Volunteer Plan
 - Access & Audience Development Plan
18. **Strategic Link**
19. The improvements identified for the park can help to provide added value to the other regeneration projects happening within the same locality. Both the LCC Remade Linear Park Project and the significant investment in the Leisure Centre can help to generate a major package of recreational improvements for Padiham.
20. This is now an ideal opportunity to maximise the benefits that can be brought about by all these schemes, in particularly the match funding from these projects that will be available for the park project. We see these additional projects as one of the major selling points for the bid to HLF, and will highlight this strongly within the application.
21. **Next Steps**
22. If the stage 1 application is approved it needs to be submitted by the 30th September 2008. This is the last available funding round for the Parks for People programme in its current format.
23. This application stage will be highly competitive with other similar schemes both regionally and nationally. HLF anticipates 8 regional bids in September with potentially only 2 being successful due to the funding constraints of the programme.
24. We will be informed in March 2009 if we have been successful at stage 1. If successful we will then be offered a development grant to develop to stage 2, with an application being made in March 2010.
25. Stage 2 is still competitive and it is not fully guaranteed that we would receive the full funding for the project. If successful funding for the project would be available from July 2010, with capital funding available for 3 years, and revenue funding for 5 years.
26. To achieve a successful application we need to identify the high level of support from the local community for the project. The Friends of the Park with support from the council have devised a petition and our distributing this through as many outlets as possible within Padiham. The Burnley Express will also be running a number of articles about the project and will be provided a cut of slip for people to sign post to show there level of support.

The Mayor of Padiham Town Council through his business contacts is also seeking letters of support from the local business community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

27. The 08/09 Capital Programme contains a provision for £97,999. £44,000 is required for the completion of stage 1, whilst the remainder will be required during 2009/2010.
28. If approved HLF will support the project with a maximum of 75% of the overall budget costs. The additional 25% needs to be provided from other sources with 5% of this figure to be a minimum cash contribution from the local authority. It has been identified by the regional HLF grants officer that those bids that can identify an additional contribution over 25% are more likely to be successful in gaining approval for their bid.

29. Summary

Source of Funding	Secured or Approved	Amount	% of total
Capital			
BBC capital	Secured	£97,999	6.0%
BBC Padiham capital allocation	Secured	£5,000	0.3%
BBC play programme capital	Secured	£50,000	3.0%
section 106	Secured	£40,380	2.4%
REMADE	Secured	£441,180	26.3%
other grants	Needs to be gained	£55,000	3.3%
United Utilities	Secured	£5,790	0.3%
Revenue			
BBC in kind labour (over 5 years)	Secured as part of programme delivery	£180,000	10.7%
Volunteers	Secured as part of programme delivery	£15,000	0.9%
Net total required from Parks for People Programme (both revenue & capital)	Needs to be gained	£786,330	46.8%
Estimated scheme cost		£1,678,680	100%

30. Capital Costs

31. The capital projects undertaken as part of the project will help to address a number of infrastructure improvements that are required. The funding will allow for the building of new public toilets, address welfare and operational issues within the maintenance depot, and improve the condition of the footpath network throughout the park. These projects will help to remove or reduce the council's financial responsibilities for addressing these

issues.

32. Revenue

33. The improvements will help to reduce the costs of Property Consultancy in the up-keep and maintenance of structures through their up grading. The project will also allow for the appointment of a new Apprentice Gardener allowing for the service unit to tackle their workforce planning issues of an ageing workforce, and skills shortage.
34. Funding will also allow for the recruitment of a number of local volunteer rangers who will be able to support the development and the management of the site through training and active involvement.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

35. The Community Strategy identifies this as one of the key projects for delivery.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

36. Padiham Town Council
Friends of Memorial Park
Local residents of Padiham

BACKGROUND PAPERS

37. A copy of the plan for the park and other associated documents will be made available at the Town Hall within the Member's room before the Executive meeting on the 23rd September.

Project file held at Cemetery Office, Rossendale Road, Burnley