

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of People and Places (Introduced by the Executive Member for People)	Executive Cabinet	21 March 2013

UPDATE - CHORLEY REMEMBERS HLF PROJECT

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To provide an update on the Chorley Remembers HLF (Heritage Lottery Fund) project.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That the Executive Cabinet notes the progress to date and approves the Council's continued involvement as detailed in the report.
- That £36,082.77 is allocated from the £250K 2013-13 capital budget for Astley Park to fund the remedial work to the arch including the repair and restoration of the main gates, side gates and cobbled area.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- The report provides an update on the Chorley Remembers HLF project. The recommendation is to note the progress to date and to approve the further actions detailed in the report for the elements of project that involve Chorley Council assets.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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Key Decision? Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

- To provide an update on progress to date and seek approval for the further actions for the elements of project that involve Chorley Council assets.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- Not to approve the progress and further actions outlined in the report.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all		A strong local economy	
Clean, safe and healthy communities		An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	✓

BACKGROUND

8. Following the success of the Chorley Pals Memorial statue, the Trustees of the Chorley Pals Memorial have secured HLF funding for a Remembrance Project in Chorley.
9. The Remembrance Project has a four strands that involve Chorley Council assets, namely:
 - Enhancement to the Chorley Cenotaph.
 - Remedial works to the Memorial Arch at the Park Road entrance to Astley Park.
 - Expansion and enhancement of the Memorial Room at Astley Hall.
 - Enhancements to the Chorley Pals Memorial statue.
10. Chorley Council and Chorley Remembers have been working closely to delivery these four elements of the project. This report provides an update on the project to date.

UPDATE - ENHANCEMENT TO THE CHORLEY CENOTAPH

11. This element of the project has now been completed and was ready in time for Remembrance Day on 11th November 2012
12. As previously approved, in the Executive Member Decision taken on 28th August 2012, the Councils' Streetscene team has now commissioned a piece of work to resurface the footpath at the rear of the cenotaph to include benches and a widened path at the top to provide a standing area. A detailed design and specification is currently being prepared with a view to undertaking the work later in the year following a procurement and tendering process.

UPDATE - REMEDIAL WORKS TO THE MEMORIAL ARCH

13. The remedial work to the memorial arch has had listed building consent approved by Secretary of State on 13th November 2012.
14. The remedial work identified for the main arch from the specialists report has now been tendered and this will include:
 - Removing all vegetation and plant growth and treating with biocide.
 - Repointing stone joints, cracks, fractures and fissures in lime mortar.
 - Lifting the top two courses of stonework to enable cramp replacement and subsequent re-bedding / realignment of dislodged stones.
 - Removing and replacing the existing iron cramps where necessary.
 - Fitting of a stainless steel capping to the head of the arch to protect the structure from further erosion and water penetration.
 - Repair gate hinges and metal runners.
15. An additional option has also been tendered to include repair and restoration of the main gates, side gates and cobbled area including stone kerbs. This additional work falls outside the original scope of the project that focused on remedial work to the main structure (as outlined in paragraph 14).
16. Specialist advice has indicated that the main gates and two side gates are likely to need repairing within the next five years and to undertake this work as a one-off would be more expensive than undertaking it with together with the work to the arch. It would also mean that access through the arch would be prevented on two rather than one occasions.

17. The cost to undertake the work is as follows:
 - a. Remediate the main arch structure: £30,105.90 (as outlined in paragraph 14)
 - b. Cost to repair and restore gates and cobbles: £23,685.20 (as outlined in paragraph 15)
18. This work is scheduled to start on 22nd April 2013 over a six week period until 31st May 2013. During this period the arch gateway will be shut with pedestrian access diverted further along Park Road and the Queens Road Car Park entrance. Vehicular access will be diverted through the Astley Hall entrance and Ackhurst Lodge entrance as required. Given the age and condition of the memorial arch, it is possible that additional work may be identified during the scheduled remedial works and this may extend the period that the arch remains closed. Prolonged periods of wet weather and / or unseasonal temperatures may also delay work. Provision has therefore been made to work weekends, if necessary, to minimise the impact of any delays in the work programme.
19. There is currently £17,708.33 of funding from Chorley Remembers available for this element of the project. Therefore, further funding of £12,397.57 is required to fund the work in 17a (main arch) and a further £23,685.20 to fund the work in 17b (gates & cobbles). As this work will be undertaken in the new financial year (2013-14) it is proposed that the additional costs to fund both 17a and 17b, a total of £36,082.77, is funded from the £250K Capital budget for Astley Park development. The £11,606.37 remaining from the £20K contingency fund will be taken back into the general balances at the 2012-13 year end.

UPDATE – CHORLEY REMEMBERS EXHIBITION

20. The work to fit out the new Chorley Remembers exhibition is underway and is scheduled to open in April 2013. The new exhibition will include a mix of inter-changeable information boards, display cases, multi-media displays and a recreation of a First World War trench including officers quarters. The exhibition will cover Chorley's involvement in wars and conflicts over the years, as well as life in Chorley for those left behind or affected and it will also include some details on the Royal Ordnance Factory.
21. The memorial room at Astley Hall is also being redecorated and new lighting is being installed. The memorial room will highlight the work undertaken by Susannah Knight and the Golden Books will remain on display as the key feature and part of the memorial exhibition. The Golden Books are being digitised and will also be available in electronic format as part of the Chorley Remembers exhibition in the Coach House.
22. Initial design work to adapt the Farmhouse to provide additional exhibition space for local groups has also been commissioned and Council Officers are working closely with the Astley Advisory Group and local groups to develop this space and other options such as maximising the exhibition space in Astley Hall and the Coach House.

UPDATE - ENHANCEMENTS TO THE CHORLEY PALS MEMORIAL STATUE

23. The works to the Chorley Pals Memorial Statue are complete and the advertising unit on the site has recently been relocated next to Booths.
24. The site was licensed to Chorley Remembers and now the work has been completed this will transfer back to the Council. The statue and plinth will now be covered under the Council's insurance policy.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

25. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance	✓	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal	✓	Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

26. The £250,000 Astley Hall and Park development budget was added to the 2013/14 Capital Programme by Special Council on 28th February 2013. The intended source of financing is capital receipts due to be received during 2013/14. If use of the budget to finance the works to the Memorial Arch is approved, the budget would also be grossed up to include the value of work to be funded with a contribution from Chorley Remembers.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

27. No further comments to add to the report.

JAMIE CARSON
DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE & PLACES

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Jamie Dixon	5250	01-03-2013	EC 21-03-2013 CRUpdate