

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Public Protection Streetscene and Community (Introduced by the Executive Member for Community Services)	Executive Cabinet	19 November 2015

ASTLEY 2020 UPDATE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The report provides an update on progress towards implementing the Astley 2020 action plan.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. That Members note the update on progress towards implementing the Astley 2020 action plan as detailed in the report.
3. That the remaining Astley 2020 budget is allocated as detailed in the report.
4. A growth bid for £350K is put forward to fund further investment in footpath lighting and events infrastructure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

5. The report provides an update on the Astley 2020 project and outlines current projects being delivered together with areas for further investment.

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)

6. To ensure the continued development of Astley and implementation of the Astley 2020 including provision for improved events infrastructure.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

7. None.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

8. 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

9. On 13th February 2014, the Executive Cabinet approved a five year development plan for Astley Hall and Park – Astley 2020.
10. The Astley 2020 development plan details actions covering five key areas:
1. Astley Hall and Park conservation.
 2. Improving the visitor offer and experience.
 3. Business development to support a sustainable business model.
 4. Heritage partnership development.
 5. World War I commemoration.

UPDATE

11. Significant progress has been and the latest action plan is detailed in Appendix 1.
12. Projects delivered over the last 18 months include:
- New exhibition space in Astley Farmhouse £141K
 - Fountain on the lodge £28K
 - Lighting of Memorial Arch £4K
 - Sensory Garden including new footpath linking into woodland £35K
 - Destination play area £257K
 - Essential work to the wall in the Great Hall at Astley Hall including completion of conservation plan and technical drawings for Astley Hall £123K.
13. Projects currently in progress include:
- **Developing a Green Stage in the Walled Garden**
Planning permission has been granted and work is being arranged to create a raised platform / green stage that can also accommodate marquees for events. This work should be complete for April 2016.
 - **Events car parking** a total of £25K has been invested into feasibility work / track matting for events car parking that leaves £175K to be invested into proposed events parking infrastructure on Westway. Various options are being developed.
 - **Footpath lighting** - the feasibility work for footpath lighting is in the initial stages and the options for getting a new power supply into the park are currently being explored. This project will require further consultation, planning approval and subsequent procurement before any work is started and therefore this is being re-phased to 2016-17. The estimated cost of this work is £150K. It is proposed the initial £50K allocated for

this work is allocated to the glasshouse (as detailed below) and the full £150K budget requirement is put forward as part of a growth bid for future investment in Astley from 2016-17.

- **New Glasshouse in the Walled Garden** - originally £25K was allocated from the budget with the remaining funding (£50K) to hopefully come from a successful funding bid from the Veolia Landfill Tax Fund. Unfortunately this fund has recently ceased and there is a lack of other significant funding streams. It is therefore proposed that the remaining £50K of the current budget (originally allocated for footpath lighting) is allocated to this project. This will ensure that the glasshouse is complete for summer 2016 and in time for the Chorley Flower Show. The Astley Walled Gardeners are continuing to seek and apply for other funding that may offset some element of the costs / fund additional complimentary items.

Budget update

14. A total of £1,245M has been allocated for investment in the Astley 2020 project (2013-14 £298K, 2014-15 £629K and 2015-16 £318K).

15. Due to budget carry forwards the 15/16 budget is £680k with £242k spent to date. It is proposed that the remaining budget of £438K is allocated as follows:

- Events car parking £175K
- Green stage £7K
- Glasshouse £75K
- Astley Hall £181K

16. There are a number of further areas for development that require additional funding as detailed below.

- **Footpath lighting - £150K**

The original estimate was £125K but this has been increased by £25K to £150K to cover the cost of creating a new power supply connection into Astley Park. This has been identified as a requirement during the initial feasibility work.

- **Events infrastructure - £100K**

This work will include:

- Re-profiling of land adjacent to the lake to create a suitable area for large events. The current ground conditions are uneven and the drainage needs further work. This will also include some levelling of areas around Astley Hall.
- Improvements to access paths (to allow vehicular access for events) and improvement to drainage as required.
- Provision of service points for events (electricity / water).
- Purchase of fencing for major events.
- Improvements to perimeter fencing to restrict access during major events.
- Footpath improvements around Coach House / tennis courts and bowling hut area.

- **Reconfiguring Hallgate Car Park - £50K**

With the increased visitors to Astley, the existing car park at Hallgate needs to be reconfigured so that the available space can be maximised for parking. By removing

some grassed areas from the existing layout it is estimated that a further 30+ car parking spaces can be provided.

- **Tennis courts improvements - £50K**

This work will include a new surfacing, new fencing / gates and repairs to the boundary infrastructure

17. It is therefore proposed that a budget growth bid of £350K for 2016-17 be put forward to fund the additional work as outlined above.

HLF Bid

18. A final report and programme of works required for Astley Hall is currently being finalised that will inform the medium to longer term investment required the Hall. This will also guide and form a key part of a HLF bid that will be worked up in 2016.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

19. 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

20. The funding requested in paragraph 4 above will form part of the budget setting and medium term financial strategy papers to be approved on 1 March 2016.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

21. No comments to add to the report.

Jamie Carson
 Director of Public Protection, Streetscene and Community

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Jamie Dixon	5250	23-10-2015	EC ASTLEY 2020 Update