

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Policy and Governance Introduced by the Executive Member for Resources)	Executive Member Decision	March 2018

ASTLEY PARK GARDEN OF REFLECTION

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To seek approval to proceed with the creation of the Garden of Reflection within the walled garden at Astley Park and award the contact.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. To approve the creation of the Garden of Reflection within the walled garden at Astley Park.
3. To award the contract for design, construction and project delivery to John Everiss.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

4. Funding was secured through the Armed Forces Covenant in 2015 for the design and implementation of a 'Garden of Reflection' in Astley Park, Chorley. The focus of the project will centre on a covered performance stage which will be used to accommodate events and performances, engage the local community and nurture public understanding and awareness of issues affecting the armed forces community.
5. The garden was initially to be located at the site of the old pets corner in Astley Park, however, through consultation this location was altered to the walled garden. The funder has been engaged and involved with decision making throughout the process. The garden was put out to a design competition in 2017 but it was felt that none of the submissions were appropriate for the setting.
6. Landscape Designer John Everis was approached in December 2017 and asked to prepare a design and cost breakdown for the construction for the Garden of Reflection. This design has been shared amongst the Astley Advisory group, Chorley's MP, Ward Cllrs, Exec member, leader brief, the funder, key stakeholders, planning officers, Heritage England and the armed forces community for comment.
7. Planning permission and Building Control Consent is needed to progress the project.
8. It is proposed that the Garden of Reflection is constructed and is the main show piece of Chorley Flower Show 2018.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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Key Decision? Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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Reason	1, a change in service	2, a contract worth £100,000
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Please bold as appropriate	provision that impacts upon the service revenue budget by £100,000 or more	or more
	3, a new or unprogrammed capital scheme of £100,000 or more	4, Significant impact in environmental, social or physical terms in two or more wards

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

9. The market has been tested via the design competition for the Garden of Reflection. It was felt that no design was suitable to take forward to construction.
10. The Evaders Garden has been a success. The Garden of Reflection is designed in a similar style to unify the space. The design uses high quality materials.
11. The original grant was awarded in 2015 and there is an urgency to deliver the project or risk losing the funding.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

12. To not carry out the project and return the funding would not be an option as a space with dual purpose as a garden that remembers and recognises the sacrifices faced by the armed forces community and the provision of a covered event and performance space within the walled garden is a welcome addition to the site.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

13. 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 homes and communities		An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	✓

BACKGROUND

14. In 2015 a funding bid was written to the Armed Forces Covenant and £100,000 awarded towards the creation of a Garden of Reflection in Astley Park. In addition Chorley Council was providing £20,000 funding via officer time and additional improvements to the park to support the garden.
15. Meetings were held with various stakeholder groups, ward members and the MP to work up the design of the garden. It was decided to alter the location of the garden from the centre of the park to the walled garden due to the close proximity to key facilities such as parking, café, toilets, lighting and shelter and the ability to close off the walled garden for security making this location an ideal choice.
16. The walled garden in Astley Park (English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of special Historic Interest in England Grade II), is adjacent to Astley Hall (listed Grade I), Coach House (listed Grade II) and Astley Farmhouse. The design of the garden needs to be appropriate for inclusion within the walled garden in Astley Park. The concept needs to fit unobtrusively within the garden with little impact on the historic integrity of the site and its listed building status.

17. The project is essentially to create a Garden of Reflection within the Walled Garden that remembers and recognises the sacrifices faced by the armed forces community. The garden space is designed to have a dual purpose as a covered event and performance space within the walled garden. There is currently no "band stand" type of performance area in Astley Park.
18. This new garden/performance space will enable all year activity by various shows, bands, poets, etc. It will also provide an educational element to the walled garden as well as a more attractive place to sit and reflect thus improving visitor experience to Astley Hall and Park.
19. Chorley's Military Partnership Board is particularly pleased with the development work that has and continues to take place at Astley Park and Hall. The Park and Hall are Chorley's official war memorial and home to the Town's cenotaph. Within Astley Hall is a room with war memorabilia and the Coach House is home of the Chorley Remembers Exhibition. There has been a lot of interest in developing a garden of reflection in Astley Park. This is particularly appropriate given its war memorial status and the horticultural quality provided at the park. The park has Green Flag Status.
20. In 2017 seven architects were invited to submit initial concept design proposals. Three submissions were received and evaluated by a team consisting of Parks and Open Spaces Officer, Communications and Events Manager, Arts and Heritage Manager, Principal Planner Conservation and representative from the funder - Armed Forces.
21. The submissions are varied and interesting and after discussing each submission in detail and completing the evaluation template it was decided that none were appropriate for inclusion within the walled garden in Astley Park.

CONTRACTOR APPOINTMENT

22. The Evaders Garden was designed and created by landscape designer John Everiss in 2015 as Chorley Council's submission to the Chelsea Flower Show. This garden was then relocated to Astley Park and has been much admired, is robust and fitting to its setting.
23. John was approached to design a Garden of Reflection in December 2017. The design has been shared widely and stakeholders consulted. The simple quality of this concept, the sensitive approach to the project to present a structure which takes account of existing materials within the garden, existing uses and also meets the criteria required by the funder makes this design ideal for the site. See Heritage Statement for further details of the design and images.
24. It is proposed to appoint John Everiss to take forward this design and create the garden to be the show piece of Chorley Flower Show 2018.

COST BREAKDOWN

25. The table below sets out the estimated costs for the garden of reflection:

Item	Cost
Structural survey and Planning costs	£ 1,000.00
Professional design fees	£ 2,000.00
Project management including labour during the build	£ 7,000.00
Site prep and clearance and waste disposal	£ 2,500.00
Performance Area including stonework, flooring and roof	£ 23,850.00
Electrics and lighting rig	£ 3,500.00

Paving and gravel	£ 6,000.00
Sculpture by Thompson Dagnall	£ 15,000.00
Stone blocks with inscription	£ 6,000.00
Planting	£ 11,600.00
Interpretation Board	£ 2,500.00
Opening events	£ 5,000.00
Film of prelim and build as a permanent display	£ 5,500.00
Contingency for additional site costs etc	£ 5,000.00
TOTAL	£ 96,450.00

26. Any additional funding remaining to total the £100,000 grant will be allocated to an events programme to utilise the new performance space over 2018-2019.
27. In addition Chorley Council is committing £70,000 towards extending parking provision at Hallgate and is committing staff time to progress the project.
28. It is recognised that an integrated impact assessment will need to be completed to support this decision.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

29. 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

30. The budget for this work is included in the Astley 2020 capital budget as part of the council's capital programme. This work will be funded through the £100k grant that has already been received. The council's match funding is deemed to be through its staff time spent on the project as well as the investment in Hallgate car park.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

31. A waiver should be completed to reflect that the Council's Contract Procedure Rules have not been followed in the award of this contract. The reasons provided within the report would support this departure.

REBECCA HUDDLESTON
DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

Background Papers			
Document	Date	File	Place of Inspection
Heritage Statement	Feb 2018	***	Mod Gov

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Lindsey Blackstock	5218	14/02/2018	***



_____ Dated 13/03/18 _____
Councillor Peter Wilson
Executive Member for Resources