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**A separate report is submitted in the private part of the agenda in respect of this item, as it contains details of financial information required to be kept private in accordance with Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. The grounds for privacy are that it contains information relating to the financial and business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining the exemption under Schedule 12A outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.**

Cabinet

13 February 2018

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member for City Services - Councillor J Innes

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

**Ward(s) affected:**

Cheylesmore

**Title:**

London Road Cemetery – Application for Heritage Lottery Funding

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**Is this a key decision?**

Yes, the proposal in this report will incur expenditure above the £1m threshold.

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**Executive Summary:**

The Council secured Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF) in 2016 to develop a proposed detailed scheme to restore the Sir Joseph Paxton designed Arboretum Cemetery which is a Grade 1 listed Historic Park and Garden and one of the top five historic cemeteries in the UK, as a visitor attraction, park for local people and education resource. The project will be delivered in two phases to reinstate elements of the original landscape design, repair major features including the listed Anglican Chapel and Promenade and grave monuments. The project will include community engagement alongside education and training to increase participation volunteer activities.

The area is owned by Coventry City Council (see Appendix 1 Property ownership plan).

An application will be made on the 28 February 2018 to The Heritage Lottery “Parks for People” Stage 2 Phase 1 (HLF delivery stage) funding. If successful Heritage Lottery will make an award in June 2018.

**Recommendations:**

**Cabinet is requested to:-**

1. Approve the submission of the stage 2 application to Heritage Lottery Fund, "Parks for People" for the London Road Cemetery Project.
2. If successful, authorise the Council to act as the accountable body for the Stage 2 Phase 1 grant award.
3. Delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive, (Place) and Legal Services Managers following consultation with Cabinet Members for City Services to finalise and enter into any necessary agreements in relation to securing the HLF funding.
4. Approve a local contribution from the Council's existing resources towards the delivery stage to be used in addition to HLF Funding.
5. Approve the Council to underwrite a local contribution from Council's own funds towards the delivery stage to be used in addition to HLF Funding subject to other external grant being secured.
6. Delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) following consultation with the Cabinet Member for City Services to make applications to other funding providers to develop a funding package for delivery of a phase 2 submission, subject to such applications not exceeding the Cabinet approval limits under the Constitution.

**List of Appendices included:**

Appendix 1 – Property Ownership Plan

**Background papers:**

**Other useful documents:**

London Road Cemetery – Application for Heritage Lottery Funding – Cabinet Member report considered on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016

<http://democraticservices.coventry.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=564&MId=10776>

**Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

No

**Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?**

No

**Will this report go to Council?**

No

## Report title: London Road Cemetery – Application for Heritage Lottery Funding

### 1. Context (or background)

- 1.1. The London Road Cemetery is a Grade 1 Listed Historic Park and Garden, designed by Sir Joseph Paxton in 1845 at the height of his career. Paxton was commissioned by the Council to create one of the first municipal cemeteries in the country. It is Paxton's only cemetery and is recognised by Historic England as one of the most significant in the Country.
- 1.2. The Cemetery's considerable potential is heightened further by its close proximity to the Charterhouse for which is also subject of a Stage 2 application to secure Heritage Lottery funding for the restoration of the building and gardens. The two schemes are designed to complement one another and provide an enhanced heritage offer for the city. Dependent on securing the funding for both projects the Council are committed to funding a crossing point to link both sites.
- 1.3. The Council has developed a project proposal to reinstate elements of the original landscape design of the cemetery and repair major features including the promenade, the listed Anglican Chapel and numerous grave monuments. Whilst the Cemetery project stands alone in its need and potential, there are added benefits of its inclusion within the overall heritage park which includes Charterhouse. The impact will be heightened by the added benefit of shared arrival point and car parking, joint promotion, management, volunteering and activity programme with the Charterhouse. This benefit will be lost if the project is not delivered in tandem with the Charterhouse. The completion of the Cemetery project will provide an initial focus for the area. The eventual delivery of both projects together will provide a regional draw with more repeat visits and possibly weekend stays, which has much greater potential impact on the city's economy.
- 1.4. A Stage 2 application to Heritage Lottery will be submitted for grant funding to enable the project proposals deliverability. The application will be taken to Heritage Lottery Board for consideration in June 2018.
- 1.5. If successful the collective pot will be used to appoint an external professional team and specialist consultants to deliver the proposals detailed below as part of a phased programme of works:
  - To restore the Grade I listed landscape and where feasible reinstate Paxton's original design to facilitate use as a public park. This will include improvements to the path network, improved horticultural features and seating.
  - Restore the Anglican Chapel, including repairs to stonework, floors and windows and the Chapel will also have significantly improved visitor facilities with improved lighting, heating and other facilities to support a wider range of uses.
  - Restore the elevated Promenade as a key feature of the original design, with works to open up the former mortuary chapels beneath, providing spaces for exhibitions and interpretation.
  - To initially restore 20 of the key monuments including the Paxton Memorial, with additional external funding to be sought to restore additional monuments.
  - Works to safeguard and extend the life of the notable veteran and mature trees, including the characteristic 'candelabra' limes.
  - Measures to interpret and celebrate the heritage of London Road Cemetery through improved signage, interpretation panels, exhibition space using the bier store, mortuary chapel and Anglican Chapel.

- To make a step change in education and understanding of the significance of the site with a much greater number and range of tours and information, in different formats, which will educate, inform and also entertain.
- To develop and deliver a range of innovative and appropriate events and activities which attract more visitors and more diverse audiences, contributing to the wider heritage and cultural offer of Coventry (linked to City of Culture 2021).
- To promote London Road Cemetery as a heritage and community venue for local arts and community organisations to deliver events and activities.
- To encourage and support greater volunteer participation providing a range of opportunities for a diverse range of local people to contribute to the delivery of the project. Target audiences include young people and children, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups local families, day visitors and cultural tourists, and older heritage visitors. Local schools will also be engaged through arts and theatre projects and an education programme celebrating local heritage.
- To build the capacity of the Friends of London Road Cemetery so that the group can play a greater role in managing and maintaining the cemetery
- To provide opportunities for training in traditional skills, working with the local college(s) and building contractors.
- To develop a sustainable model for ongoing management and maintenance of the cemetery, which encourages volunteer participation and capitalises on opportunities for income generation.

- 1.6. The Business Plan sets out how the project will be sustained during the HLF funded period of five years and also covers the following five years. The Business Plan looks at income generating opportunities through events, activities, volunteering and other commercial activity within the cemetery and the Anglican Chapel. The Non-Conformist Chapel is outside the scope of the HLF bid and therefore has not been included within the Plan. Funding has been secured to restore the shell of the building and further funding to be secured to convert the Chapel into offices.
- 1.7. The Activity Plan and the Business Plan have been reviewed and revised to take account of a phased approach to delivering the capital works at London Road Cemetery. Further work has been undertaken to co-ordinate and align the plan with the proposals for Charterhouse Heritage Park which is subject to a HLF Heritage grant. The Historic Coventry Trust will potentially play a significant role in delivering activities at London Road Cemetery and in taking on the management and maintenance of the Anglican Chapel (as well as the Non-Conformist Chapel).
- 1.8. These proposals have been developed sufficiently to enable an application to be made to the HLF for the capital and revenue funds required to deliver **Stage 2 – Phase 1** of the project.

## **2. Options considered and recommended proposal**

The options to consider are whether to support the application submitted or withdraw it.

- 2.1. Option one - withdraw the application / do nothing – this will lead to further decline and deterioration of the Cemetery with increased maintenance costs.
- 2.2. Option two - support the Heritage Lottery Initiative stage 2 application and to make a commitment from the Council's funds. This collective delivery stage budget will be used to deliver Stage 2 – Phase 1 of the project and it is proposed a further application for stage 2 – Phase 2 to be submitted to HLF for further funding.

2.3. The officer recommendation is to support the Heritage Lottery Stage 2 Phase 1 application for London Road Cemetery set out in Option 2.

### **3. Results of consultation undertaken**

3.1. The following consultation was carried out during the development stage;

3.2. Online consultation with local schools and households was carried out via the Coventry

3.3. City Council website; household and school surveys have indicated a strong interest in the proposals set aside for the delivery stage. A recent event carried out by the pupils of Westwood School which was held at the Albany Theatre displayed the importance and relevance of this project.

3.4. Questionnaires were posted to the local residents to complete and return; which again showed a positive response.

3.5. Regular meetings were held with the Chair of the Friends of London Road Cemetery to inform design and activity progress.

3.6. Consultation of design was carried out at the Friends of London Road Cemetery group meeting session. The group are very supportive of the project.

3.7. Letters of support have been received from various organisations; Coventry University; Warwick University; Theatre Absolute; Friends of London Road Cemetery; Albany Theatre; Coventry Artspace; Councillor Roger Bailey and Historic Coventry Trust.

3.8. Consultation with IGERS, which is an informal group of people who meet to take photographs of areas of Coventry, which promoted London Road Cemetery via Instagram and Facebook.

3.9. The feedback and comments from the consultation have been positive and welcome the investment into the preservation of the historic fabric of the area and its overall regeneration and awareness raising.

### **4. Timetable for implementing this decision**

4.1. If the recommendation to support is approved the following indicative timetable will be followed :-

4.1.1. The Stage 2 application to Heritage Lottery, Parks for People Initiative to be submitted on the 28th February 2018

4.1.2. Approval to stage 2 application by the HLF to be obtained June 2018

4.1.3. Physical delivery of stage 2 will commence October 2018 – October 2023. This is the stage when the Council's funds and Parks for People Heritage Lottery Grant will be spent.

### **5. Comments from Director of Finance and Corporate Services**

#### **5.1. Financial implications**

The report requests approval for the submission of a stage 2 application to the Heritage Lottery Fund Parks for People.

Following the success of the stage 2 submission, the Council is required to contribute towards the project delivery stage.

As accountable body for the development grant, the Council would need to ensure procurement processes are followed, payments processed and claims submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund on a timely basis. This is essential to ensure spend is deemed eligible and risk of clawback is minimised.

Stage 2 Phase 1 scope of works will be delivered as part of the delivery stage which include developed delivery costs, funding opportunities, and local contributions.

Final approval to progress the second phase of the delivery stage will be subject to a securing further funding and a separate report to Cabinet.

## **5.2. Legal implications**

Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 permits a Council to do anything that an individual may do whether or not normally undertaken by a local authority (the General Power of Competence). The power is subject to any pre or post commencement restrictions on the use of power (none of which apply in this case).

If successful the Council will be accepting a grant for the delivery stage work and compliance with any funding criteria and requirements. The Council would be the accountable body for the funding.

As accountable body, it is anticipated that the Council will be required to enter into a Grant Aid Agreement with Heritage Lottery Funding to govern the terms and conditions of the grant funding. Legal advice will be sought on the terms and condition of the grant agreement to minimise any risks.

## **6. Other implications**

### **6.1. How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's Plan?**

The success of the Stage 2 application will allow the release of funds to spend on the project to a deliverable scheme. The delivery of the overall scheme will restore and improve the appearance of the Cemetery and religious buildings. In addition it will restore property, preserve our heritage, and create new public facilities and park facilities.

This will support the priorities set out in the Council corporate plan; giving an attractive greener city, improve health and wellbeing, make the most of our assets and in return raise the profile of the city and offer more cultural opportunities.

The restoration of this area will also sit positively alongside the award to Coventry for City of Culture 2021.

### **6.2. How is risk being managed?**

Risk will be managed by the Council. The main risk is that the Stage 2 application is not approved and the project will not proceed further. Failure to secure from external funds however the Council has a track record of successfully managing this risk.

The Council will incur risk as the Accountable body in administering the grant but has a track record of successfully managing external grants delivered with partners.

### 6.3. **What is the impact on the organisation?**

The project will have the following impact on the organisation:-

The project will generate revenue for staffing – opportunity to secure funding for an engagement officer, volunteer coordinator and grant and finance management role.

The project proposals include the upgrading and restoration of Council owned land and property.

The organisation will ring-fence match funding for the London Road delivery stage as detailed in the financial section of the private report.

### 6.4. **Equalities / EIA**

The report recommendations do not affect the Council's policy, provision of any service or its statutory functions. It is not required to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment.

### 6.5. **Implications for (or impact on) the environment**

The Project will bring about positive environmental impacts:-

- Restoration of buildings
- Parks and greenspace improvements
- Reusing reclaimed materials
- Provide a local and visitor attraction

The London Road Cemetery Project presents an opportunity to preserve nationally important heritage, develop the City's heritage draw, increase volunteering and training opportunities, provide facilities for the local community and the potential for income generation, introduce new uses to the site, link in with the Charterhouse Heritage Park (physically, functionally and managerially) and become part of a city heritage trail. The project will increase visitor numbers and improve the visitor experience, by providing limited on site facilities and an unmanned display, plus a range of materials for schools and others.

The delivery of both the London Road Cemetery and the Charterhouse will provide a regional draw with more repeat visits and possibly weekend stays, which has much greater potential impact on the city's economy.

### 6.6. **Implications for partner organisations?**

The project will be delivered in partnership with Historic Coventry Trust.

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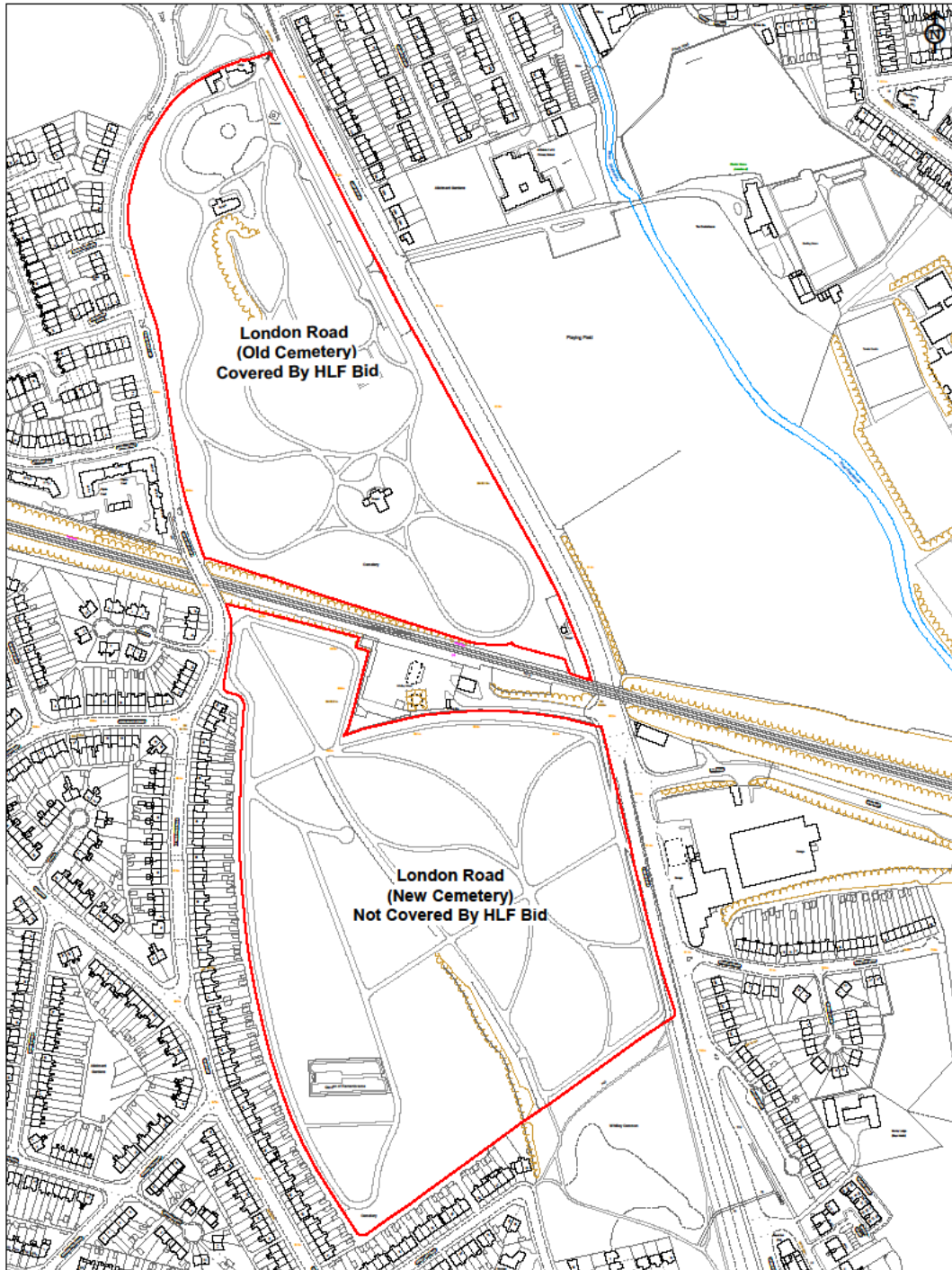
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Lara Knight	Governance Services Coordinator	Place	23/01/18	15/01/18
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Councillor Jayne Innes	Cabinet Member for City Services	Place	17/01/18	22/01/18
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This report is published on the council's website:  
[www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings)




**Appendices;**

**Appendix 1 – Property Ownership Plan**



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**London Road Cemetery**

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