

Decision Maker: Portfolio Holder for Renewal & Recreation

Date: For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by the Renewal and Recreation Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 1 April 2014

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: **AMENDMENT TO CAPITAL PROGRAMME - CRYSTAL PALACE PARK**

Contact Officer: Colin Brand, Assistant Director Leisure and Culture
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Chief Officer: Nigel Davies, Executive Director of Environment & Community Services

Ward: Crystal Palace; Penge & Cator

1. Reason for report

This report provides an update on the proposals for improvement projects at Crystal Palace Park. It also seeks support from the Portfolio Holder to re-allocate £29k of the £50k held in the capital programme for pre-application (feasibility) support for Crystal Palace Park, to fund the feasibility works for the Crystal Palace Park Subway project.

English Heritage have agreed to provide grant funding of £29k to support this work. This will result in the return of £21k of capital monies from the £50k that was originally allocated for Crystal Palace Park.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 The Renewal & Recreation Portfolio Holder is asked to:

- Support the reallocation of 29k towards the feasibility works specifically for the Crystal Palace Park Subway project.
- Request that the Executive Committee agree to the revised scheme in the capital programme totalling £58k, part funded by a grant of £29k from English Heritage.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy: Consistent with Building a Better Bromley
 2. BBB Priority: Quality Environment Regeneration
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Estimated Cost £58k
 2. Ongoing costs: Non-Recurring Cost
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Capital programme
 4. Total current budget for this head: £50k
 5. Source of funding: Capital programme and grant funding from English Heritage
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): N/A
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: None:
 2. Call-in: Applicable
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): In 2006, annual visitor numbers were assessed as part of the Crystal Palace Park Masterplan and an annual visitor figure was estimated at 1.68m (inclusive of users of the National Sports Centre but exclusive of event attendees).
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Yes
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: A summary of Ward Councillor comments will be reported to the Committee at their meeting.

3. COMMENTARY

Background

- 3.1 In 2012, the GLA announced their intention to commit £2million to support improvement projects in Crystal Palace Park, and in partnership with Bromley Council, sought views from the Crystal Palace Park Management Board and wider stakeholders on how this allocation should be spent.
- 3.2 Improvement projects suggested included remedial works to remove the Crystal Palace Subway, a grade II listed structure, from the Heritage at Risk Register. At that time, the Greater London Authority were supportive of an application submitted by the Council to English Heritage for grant funding to delivery feasibility work for this project, which would result in cost estimates for remedial action. There was an in principal agreement to commit £29k from their £2million to match fund this £58k bid.
- 3.3 Concurrently, the Council and Greater London Authority worked together to identify ways of maximising investment in the park. On 3rd April 2013, the Council's Executive Committee approved the submission of a first round application to the Heritage Lottery Fund's Parks for People programme for regeneration projects and activities in Crystal Palace Park. Both the Greater London Authority and the Council made in principal commitments to provide partnership funding to the project should the application be successful.
- 3.4 As part of their approval of the submission of a first round application, the Executive Committee also agreed to commit £50k from the Council's capital receipts to appoint specialists to support the work needed to develop projects in preparation for the first round application, however the GLA subsequently funded this work.
- 3.5 Unfortunately the first round application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for Crystal Palace Park was unsuccessful. The Heritage Lottery Fund feedback stated:
- “Whilst this project has good potential, news of proposed plans of a multi-million pound private investment into rebuilding the Crystal Palace, including the full restoration of the park, meant that at this time our trustees felt this application was a lower priority for Lottery investment. In addition, it was in a competitive round of applications that was more than two times oversubscribed.”
- 3.6 The Greater London Authority have recently announced that they have re-committed their £2million investment to Crystal Palace Park and the Council and Greater London Authority are now exploring options for interim improvement projects that could be achieved. At the last meeting of the Executive Group of the Crystal Palace Park Management Board which is chaired by the Leader of the Council, it was agreed that improvements works in the park should not stall as a result of the ZhongRong Group's proposals and that the Subway feasibility works should go ahead as originally planned making use of the funding from English Heritage.

Crystal Palace Subway

- 3.7 During the development of the first round application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, it was decided that, as a result of discussions between the Council and the Greater London Authority relating to the procurement of the specialists to support the feasibility work for the bid, the Greater London Authority agreed that they would use £50k from their partnership funding allocation for this purpose.
- 3.8 Given that the Greater London Authority had funded the pre-application support for the Heritage Lottery Fund bid, on the news that the application to English Heritage was successful they

requested that the Council's original allocation to support the Heritage Lottery Fund bid be used for the Subway project.

- 3.9 The Portfolio Holder is therefore requested to support the re-allocation of £29k of the £50k towards the feasibility works for the Crystal Palace Subway project. This sum would be match funded by a £29k grant from English Heritage. This will result in the return of £21k of capital receipts.
- 3.10 Should the Portfolio Holder agree to support the revised scheme, approval will be sought from the Executive to re-allocate these funds and add the revised scheme totalling £58k to the capital programme.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Council's Building a Better Bromley 2012-13 commitment stated that the Council will further develop the parks, leisure and sports offer at Crystal Palace Park in line with the Crystal Palace Park Masterplan.
- 4.2 The investment also supports the Council's wider objectives for a quality environment and regeneration.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 On 3 April 2013, the Executive agreed to add 'The Parks for People' capital project totalling £50k, to the capital programme. The scheme was to fund specialist work required to develop projects to support the preparation of a first round application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for Crystal Palace Park.
- 5.2 The report also mentioned that the Greater London Authority were seeking match funding to undertake feasibility works to the value of £58k related to the Subway in order to identify the costs for remedial action to remove the structure from the Heritage at Risk register. An application was submitted to English Heritage for this match funding.
- 5.3 Subsequently, the GLA agreed to use £50k from their partnership funding to support the specialist work for the first round HLF application. This meant that there was a funding gap for the Subway works and as English Heritage had agreed to match fund the project, the GLA requested that the Council re-allocate their commitment for the first round application to the Subway works.
- 5.4 This report is therefore seeking Portfolio Holder support for the revised allocation of £29k towards the £58k capital scheme for the Subway, match funded by £29k from the English Heritage. This would return a sum of £21k of capital receipts.
- 5.5 Executive approval would then be required to agree that the revised scheme totalling £58k be included in the capital programme, funded by £29k capital receipts and £29k English Heritage funding.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Personnel Implications, Legal Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Crystal Palace Park – Parks for People Application and Procurement Strategy (3 rd April 2013)