

# **Bromsgrove Town Centre - Townscape Heritage Initiative**

## **Cabinet**

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2012

### **Bromsgrove Town Centre - Townscape Heritage Initiative**

|                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Relevant Portfolio Holder  | Cllr Del Booth  |
| Portfolio Holder Consulted | Yes             |
| Relevant Head of Service   | John Staniland  |
| Wards Affected             | <b>St Johns</b> |
| Ward Councillor Consulted  | No              |
| Non-Key Decision           |                 |

#### **1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 In April 2010 the Council was provisionally awarded £1.2 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), to operate a Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) in Bromsgrove Town Centre Conservation Area. In April 2012 a second round bid was submitted providing much clearer detail on the Conservation area, the issues facing it and how they will be managed, and most importantly how the money will be spent to add lasting improvements and historic value to the area. On the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2012 this bid was approved by the HLF.
- 1.2 In order for the grant arrangements to be finalised the HFI require a formal resolution from Cabinet that the terms of the grant are accepted.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Members note the successful outcome of the THI application and the award of a grant of up to £1.2 million pounds for funding improvements in the Bromsgrove Town Centre Conservation Area ; and
- 2.2 That Members agree to accept the terms of grant made up of the standards terms of grant (Appendix 1), the additional conditions set out in the formal HLF offer letter (Appendix 2) and the HLF document "Managing your grant" ( Appendix 3).

#### **3. KEY ISSUES**

##### **Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report. The financial arrangements associated with the grant will not impact on the Councils accounts or financial position.

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### **Legal Implications**

- 3.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report save that when the Council is ready to release the grant funding to property owners who want to carry out works to their premises under the scheme the owners/ leaseholders will be required to enter into a legal agreement with the Council.

### **Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.3 The Council have been awarded £1.2 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund to undertake a THI in Bromsgrove Town Centre Conservation Area. £400,000 match funding has also been secured from Worcestershire County Council, bringing the total amount of funding available to £1.6 million. The purpose of this £1.6 million is to improve the look, feel and vitality of a key section of the Conservation Area. The money will be available for a selection of eligible properties in the form of grants to reinstate historic elements such as shop fronts. The grant rates offered will depend on the type of work being undertaken. A significant element of the THI will be focussed on the public realm. Alongside the wider scheme being developed for the Town Centre, new more traditional and high quality public realm will be a key element of the ongoing regeneration of the Town Centre.
- 3.4 An element of the HLF funding includes staffing costs, an officer will be appointed to the role of THI project officer to administer the scheme under the management of the Strategic Planning Manager.
- 3.5 As regards the terms and conditions, the standard terms which formed part of the original application are set out at Appendix 1. The additional conditions are set out in the HLF offer letter at Appendix 2 (pages 6 and 7). Members are asked to note that the approved breakdown of the spending of the grant is set out in the table at page 5 of Appendix 2. The grant funding must be spent by 31 October 2017. Finally, members are referred to the general criteria for the scheme as set out in the THI document "Managing your grant" at Appendix 3. The Council have been asked to confirm acceptance of the grant by a decision of Cabinet within 28 days as set out in Appendix 2 ( page 6).

### **Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

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- 3.6 The Equalities Officer is a key member of the project team, and has and will continue to ensure that equalities and diversity issues are successfully incorporated in the THI bid and subject to HLF approval the THI implementation. The Worcestershire Association of Service Users who carried out the accessibility audit were procured with the help of the Equalities Officer.
- 3.7 Prior to submission of the bid public consultation was carried out between 2<sup>nd</sup> February and 15<sup>th</sup> March, during this time a number of public display and events were held with approximately 300 people attending and speaking to officers. 38 formal responses were submitted which were summarised in the bid document

## **4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 The most significant risk associated with this stage of the THI process is failure to meet the requirements of the HLF and not being awarded the funding. Its is a requirement of the HLF that a formal decision by a relevant body of the Council is obtained in order to for them to release the funding.

## **5. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – THI standard terms and conditions  
Appendix 2 – HLF offer letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> September 2012  
Appendix 3 - “ Managing your grant”

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Bromsgrove Town Centre - Townscape Heritage Initiative round 2 submission.

## **AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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