

Report to: Environment Committee

Report Ref: ENV1910
Meeting Date: 29th July 2019
Agenda Item: 7
Prepared By: Town Clerk



Subject: Chelford Road Obelisk

1.0 BACKGROUND

Council approved a business case to adopt the obelisk and land at its meeting in April. This was subject to obtaining grant funding or sponsorship to cover the upfront costs. A copy of the approved business case is enclosed for ease of reference for new members.

The total upfront costs are expected to be £5,360:

- a) Repairs to the Obelisk - £3,810 (quotes received)
- b) Tree works - £1,000 (quotes received)
- c) Site clearance - £250 (budget figure)
- d) Planting - £300 (budget figure)

Donations and grants have been achieved totalling £4,150:

- a) Manchester Airport - £2,200
- b) Bruntwood - £1,500
- c) Resident donation - £450

This leaves a shortfall of £1,210. A grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund was rejected and there are few grant schemes open to town councils. The Town Clerk has identified one fund that offers grants for conservation projects to town councils and will prepare an application, however a decision would not be made until October.

It is recommended that the committee gives consideration to funding the shortfall utilising the budgets held for Open Space Improvements (£2,500) and for External Contractors (£3,400). This would require approval from Council. This approval would underwrite the grant application such that if it is rejected the project can still proceed. This underwriting would enable the council to progress with the site clearance and landscaping works in the autumn with the repairs to the obelisk taking place at a later stage. The alternative is to wait until the decision in October and consider using the budget at that stage; this would any activity on site until December/January.

2.0 DECISIONS REQUIRED

The committee should consider a recommendation to council to utilise its budget to fund the shortfall if needed.



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