

Cabinet (Resources) Panel

19 June 2018

Report title	Restoration of Pennfields and Tettenhall war memorials	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor John Reynolds City Economy	
Corporate Plan priority	Place - Stronger Economy	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	Graiseley; Tettenhall Regis	
Accountable Director	Tim Johnson	
Originating service	City Planning	
Accountable employee	Jon Beesley Tel Email	Historic Environment Officer 01902 555622 Jon.beesley@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Directorate Leadership Team Strategic Executive Board	5 June 2018 21 May 2018

Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is recommended to:

1. Approve that the Council act as the accountable body on behalf of two local community interest groups, to facilitate the repair of the Pennfields and Tettenhall war memorials.
2. Approve the establishment of a capital budget of £20,000 for the repair of Pennfields war memorial, which is to be funded by an external grant from the War Memorials Trust and contributions raised by the Bradmore War Memorial Fund community group.
3. Approve the establishment of a capital budget of £20,000 for the repair of Tettenhall war memorial, which is to be funded by an external grant from the War Memorials Trust and contributions raised by the Tettenhall War Memorial Committee community group.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To mark the centenary of the First World War, two local resident groups are proposing to restore their local war memorials in Church Road, Pennfields and in the churchyard of St. Michael and All Angels in Tettenhall.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Council to act as the accountable body for the two local community groups, to facilitate the restoration of the war memorials. The repairs will be funded through external grants from the War Memorials Trust (WMT) and contributions raised by Bradmore War Memorial Fund and Tettenhall War Memorial Committee local community groups.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Pennfields, Bradmore and Merry Hill war memorial (Pennfields war memorial) is situated within ornamental gardens in Church Road, opposite St. Philip's church. The war memorial comprises a granite figure of a soldier holding a rifle, mounted on a rusticated granite plinth. The names of the fallen are recorded on inset panels around the plinth. The memorial has recently been added to the statutory list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest as a grade II listing. The war memorial and gardens are also within the St. Philip's (Pennfields) Conservation Area.
- 2.2 An inspection of the war memorial has been carried out by a conservation-accredited structural engineer and a report has been prepared. The engineer has identified movement within the granite plinth, which is resulting in damage to the stonework. The bayonet and a section of the fore stock and barrel of the figure's rifle are also missing. The engineer's report will form the basis of the specification for the repair of the memorial. The proposed works, that are eligible for grant aid from the WMT, will include stabilising the movement within the plinth; replacing the missing parts of the rifle; repairing damaged stonework; repointing of the joints and repainting of the names within the panels.
- 2.3 The Tettenhall war memorial is situated within the churchyard of St. Michael and All Angels, which is in the Tettenhall Greens Conservation Area. The memorial is a red sandstone cross and shaft mounted on a plinth. The names of the fallen of both world wars are recorded on inset panels around the plinth.
- 2.4 The war memorial was damaged by vandals several years ago, which resulted in damage to the cross and a section of the shaft. A conservation-accredited architect has been appointed to prepare a report on the condition of the memorial and to produce a schedule of works for its restoration. The grant eligible works will include the replacement of the damaged stone cross and shaft; the repair of damaged stonework within the plinth and the repointing of the joints. Tettenhall War Memorial Committee also intend to steam clean the memorial and to replace stone paving around the memorial, which will not be eligible for grant aid. The cost of the additional works will be funded entirely with contributions raised by the group.

3.0 Progress, options, discussion

- 3.1 Both groups have been actively involved in fund raising activities, to secure their contribution towards the cost of repairs to their respective war memorials.
- 3.2 The Council's Historic Environment service has been providing advice and assistance to both groups and will make the grant applications to the WMT on their behalf.
- 3.3 Responsibility for the maintenance of the Pennfields war memorial and gardens rests with the Council, as it is on land within the Council's property portfolio.
- 3.4 The projects at Pennfields and Tettenhall are part of an on-going program of restoration and repair of Wolverhampton's war memorials, which over the last few years has included the memorials at Heathtown Park and Wednesfield and the Harris memorial in St. Peter's Gardens. Other current projects to mark the centenary of the armistice in November 2018, include the restoration of the Oxford Street war memorial in Bilston and the cleaning of the Cenotaph in St. Peter's Gardens.
- 3.5 The proposals contained within this report will be funded by external grants and public contributions. Based on initial expressions of interest for grant aid, the WMT has confirmed that the proposals for both memorials are eligible for a grant of up to 75% of the cost of the works. Bradmore War Memorial Fund and Tettenhall War Memorial Committee have both confirmed that they will provide the 25% match funding for the works to their respective memorials. Both groups have also confirmed that they will fund the full cost of any additional works, that are not eligible for WMT grant aid.

4.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 4.1 To mark the centenary of the First World War, an increased level of grant funding has been made available for the restoration of local war memorials. The WMT awards grants of up to 75% of the cost of eligible repairs, up to a maximum of £30,000.
- 4.2 In response to initial expressions of interest outlining the proposed repairs, the WMT has invited the submission of grant applications for both memorials.
- 4.3 There are no other viable options for securing the restoration of the two memorials.

5.0 Reasons for decision:

- 5.1 The proposals present an opportunity to support the efforts of two local community groups in restoring their local war memorials. The WMT grant will only be released on completion of the works to their satisfaction and confirmation of final payment to the nominated contractor. The community groups do not have sufficient funds to pay the full cost of the repairs up front. Failure to act as accountable body on their behalf would prevent the groups from being able to access the grant aid. The scope of works that could be funded by both groups, without access to the grant aid, would be considerably reduced.

6.0 Financial implications

- 6.1 This report seeks approval for the Council to act as the accountable body on behalf of two local community interest groups, to facilitate the repair of the Pennfields and Tettenhall war memorials. It is estimated that works at each site will not exceed £20,000 assuming grant of £15,000 can be secured from WMT with balances met by contributions from Bradmore War Memorial Fund and Tettenhall War Memorial Committee. On this basis approval is sought to establish capital budgets; £20,000 for Bradmore War Memorial and £20,000 for Tettenhall War Memorial.
- 6.2 Three competitive tenders for the cost of the works to each memorial will be required for the formal grant applications. On confirmation of offers of grant aid from the WMT and payment from the community groups of the 25% match funding and the full cost of any additional works, the contracts will be awarded and the works undertaken. Following completion of the works and confirmation of payment of the final invoices, the WMT will reimburse the Council, once satisfied that works have been carried out to their satisfaction. The cost of professional fees and additional works not covered by the grant will be agreed in advance and reimbursed by the community groups. Should either of the bids to WMT be unsuccessful, any advance costs incurred by the Council, in preparing the application will be reimbursed by the respective community group and the contract for the works will not be awarded. It may then be necessary to consider a reduced schedule of works to bring the scheme within the available budget.
[ES/06062018/N]

7.0 Legal implications

- 7.1 This is a contract / grant / representation matter. The Council must ensure the tender process complies with the Council's Contract Rules and that the appropriate parties enter into a contract with the successful tenderer. It will also be necessary to ensure that any necessary planning consents have been obtained.
[RB/15052018/U]

8.0 Equalities implications

- 8.1 The restoration of the war memorials will have no equalities implications. The Council's procurement process will be followed to ensure invited tenderers are treated in a fair and equitable manner with access to all relevant and necessary information.

9.0 Environmental implications

- 9.1 The proposals referred to in this report will secure the restoration of the Tettenhall and Pennfields war memorials. The Pennfields war memorial is a listed building. The improvements will also enhance the appearance of the Tettenhall Greens and St. Philip's (Pennfields) Conservation Areas

10.0 Human resources implications

10.1 The restoration of the war memorials will have no human resources implications.

11.0 Corporate landlord implications

11.1 The proposals referred to in this report will secure the restoration of the Pennfields war memorial, which is on land within the Council's property portfolio. Details of restoration works to be provided to Corporate Landlord to update asset registers as required.

12.0 Schedule of background papers

12.1 There are no relevant background papers.