

<b>Subject:</b>	Bacup Townscape Heritage Initiative	<b>Status:</b>	For Publication
<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet	<b>Date:</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> June 2012
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Chief Executive</b>	<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	<b>Leader of the Council</b>
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Community Impact Assessment:</b>	Required:	Yes	Attached: Yes
<b>Biodiversity Impact Assessment</b>	Required:	No	Attached: No
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<b>1.</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION(S)</b>
1.1	That Cabinet note the contents of this report.
1.2	That Cabinet approve the suggested membership of the Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) Working Group and Partnership Board.
1.3	All future minor amendments to the project to be delegated to the Head of Health Housing & Regeneration in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To provide members with an update regarding the Council's bid for Townscape Heritage Initiative funding.
- 2.2 To propose a governance structure for the management and delivery of the project.

## 3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:
  - **A clean and green Rossendale** – creating a better environment for all.
  - **A healthy and successful Rossendale** – supporting vibrant communities and a strong economy.
  - **Responsive and value for money local services** – responding to and meeting the different needs of customers and improving the cost effectiveness of services.

## 4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

## 5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 5.1 In November 2011 the Council submitted a bid for Townscape Heritage Initiative funding based on the town centre area of Bacup. The bid was to total £50,000 with the Council required to contribute £12,500 as match funding.
- 5.2 It has now been confirmed that this bid was successful – one of only two successful bids from the north west region.
- 5.3 This first round pass provides us with funding to develop the scheme further in consultation with the local community and stakeholders and then submit a second-round submission.

- 5.4 The expectation is that the scheme developed would deliver the following outcomes:
- Preserving and enhancing the character and appearance of conservation areas.
  - Bringing historic buildings back into appropriate and sustainable use.
  - Safeguarding the character of conservation areas through:
    - increasing training opportunities in heritage skills;
    - increasing community participation; and
    - improving approaches to conservation management and maintenance.
- 5.5 The bid required specific governance requirements for developing and delivering the project. These consist of a Working Group to deal with day to day issues and a Partnership Board to consider the more strategic issues and monitor progress.
- 5.6 It is suggested that the Working Group membership is as follows:
- Economic Development Manager  
 Renewal Initiatives Manager  
 Planning Unit Manager  
 Locality Manager  
 Head of Health Housing And Regeneration  
 Portfolio Holder For Regeneration, Tourism and Leisure  
 Assistant Conservation Officer  
 LCC Highways Officer
- 5.7 The Head of Health Housing & Regeneration will have overall responsibility for preparing the scheme during the development stage with colleagues from the Working Group assuming specific responsibilities. A nominated THI Project Manager will become the day to day manager for the scheme during the delivery phase and will regularly report progress, and any issues, to both the Working Group and the Partnership Board.
- 5.8 The Bacup THI Partnership Board will meet quarterly to provide advice and support to the project. Other officers within the Borough Council will contribute as appropriate.
- 5.9 It is suggested that the Partnership Board would be made up as follows:
- Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Tourism and Leisure  
 Ward Councillors  
 Heritage and Design Champion (Borough Council)  
 2 x Community rep  
 3x - Business representative  
 1x Accrington & Rossendale College representative  
 1x Civic Trust representative  
 LCC Highways representative  
 Police representative  
 Rossendale Borough Council Director Of Business  
 Rossendale Borough Council Assistant Conservation Officer
- 5.10 The role of the Bacup THI Partnership Board is to support the work involved in the THI development stage and, if successful, to provide advice and guidance to the Rossendale Borough Council, who will promote and deliver the THI scheme on the partnership's behalf, allocate third party grants to individual projects and activities and provide performance management for the programme. It is also likely that some members of the Partnership Board will be more directly involved in bringing additional skills to the delivery team, training initiatives and community engagement.

5.11 There remains a need to identify match funding which would support the second stage bid and the Council is keen to support the match funding requirement. Over the next few months officers will be working with partners and local businesses to identify all available sources of funding to support the programme.

5.12 Once this exercise is completed a report with full details of required match funding contributions will be presented to a future meeting of this Cabinet.

#### **COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:**

##### **6. SECTION 151 OFFICER**

6.1 The Council has not at this stage made any provision for the initial match funding of £12.5k nor any final match funding should the bid progress. Initial sources on funding for the £12.5k will be either in year savings or Reserves.

##### **7. MONITORING OFFICER**

7.1 No legal implications.

##### **8. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND POLICY (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)**

8.1 The initiative will include extensive consultation with the community.

##### **9. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

9.1 Consultation to be commenced as outlined within the report.

##### **10. CONCLUSION**

10.1 This is an exciting opportunity to bring about a step change for Bacup town centre and provide a catalyst for future private sector investment.

10.2 The delivery of the longer term project also provides the opportunity for local training, work and apprenticeship places and a much needed boost to the local economy.