

COUNCIL 6TH NOVEMBER 2017

Report of the Section 151 Officer

Part A

ITEM 7.4 AMENDMENT TO THE CAPITAL PLAN – CARILLON TOWER RESTORATION

Purpose of Report

To request that an amendment is made to the Capital Plan to make capital funds available in the current financial year 2017/18 to enable a restoration project to commence in advance of potential grant funding from the War Memorial Trust or other grant funder(s), informed by the findings of the Carillon Tower condition and specialist restoration surveys.

Recommendation

That a scheme for the restoration of the Carillon Tower be added to the Capital Plan and that funding of £282,000, funded from capital receipts, be allocated to the scheme.

Reason

To enable a programme of restoration works to be progressed ahead of a funding decision by the War Memorial Trust, to allow works to progress as the War Memorial Trust funding, if secured, is paid retrospectively after completion of works, and, if grant support is not obtained, to pay for the full restoration works to the Carillon Tower.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

The Capital Plan for 2016/17 to 2018/19 was approved by Council on 29th February 2016 (minute 84.3 refers). The Financial Regulations in the Council's Constitution provide for the Cabinet to make amendments to the Capital Plan within certain limits. More significant changes require approval by Full Council. The addition of a scheme with a value greater than £250,000 which is to be funded from the Council's resources requires Full Council approval. It is hoped that that applications for grant funding will be successful and that these will contribute significantly to meeting the costs of the scheme. However, this cannot be guaranteed and the Council is required to allocate the full cost of the scheme (£282,000) in the Capital Plan.

The Council's Corporate Plan 2016-2020 was approved by the Council on 29th February 2016 (minute 84.1 refers). Under the theme of Creating a Strong and Lasting Economy it maintains a commitment to the environment, celebrating its significance to both our heritage and future economy. One of the key tasks is to promote the Borough to increase tourism and support initiatives to help our towns and villages thrive. The Carillon has long been recognised as a unique selling point for Loughborough and in April 2015 the Council installed new Welcome to Loughborough road signs on the highway approaches to the town using the image of the Carillon in its promotion.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

A report will also be submitted to the Cabinet meeting scheduled for 16th November 2017. This report will seek approval for matters relating to the delivery of the scheme. This report has been identified by the Overview Scrutiny Group for pre-decision scrutiny.

The deadline for submitting an application to the War Memorials Trust is December 2017 and a decision is expected in February 2018. Any amendments to the allocation of funding for the scheme in the Capital Plan will be reported to the Cabinet through the regular Capital Plan amendment reports in the normal way. Those reports are scrutinised by the Performance Scrutiny Panel.

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

Financial Implications

The £282,000 capital funding that is sought is available within current capital receipts. The potential grants that might be realised from the War Memorials Trust (WMT) or other funding bodies would reduce the capital funding by the Council if secured successfully.

For clarity the decision being sought is that the capital funding of £282,000 is made available to enable restoration works to be progressed in advance of any potential funding from the WMT or other grant funder(s) to cover the full project costs and/or make up any shortfall between the full project costs and any grant received.

Risk Management

The risks associated with the decision Council is asked to make and the proposed actions to mitigate those risks are set out in the table below.

Risk Identified	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Management Actions Planned
Grant funding application is not successful	Possible	Significant	Council approves full project cost to be available

Crime and Disorder

The restoration of this public building sited within Queen's Park, a notable public space, enhances safety and decreases anti-social behaviour by increasing "pride in place".

Sustainability

As a significant landmark, the Carillon Tower acts as a cultural and historical focal point for Loughborough. The proposed works will conserve and enhance the Borough's historic and cultural environment, settlement identity and landscape character.

Key Decision: Yes

Background papers Loughborough Memorial Carillon Tower Surveyor's Report

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Part B

Background

1. Queen's Park was established in 1899 to celebrate Queen Victoria's jubilee, is the destination park in Loughborough. The Carillon Tower forms the centrepiece to the park and is a Grade II listed building. Following the end of the First World War plans for the Carillon were finalised in 1919 and the building completed in 1923. It was designed by Sir Walter Tapper and built by William Moss and Sons Ltd of Loughborough. It was the first grand carillon in England, the concept being associated with Belgium where so many British servicemen lost their lives during the First World War.
2. The tower structure has a classical Portland stone basement, brick tower with Portland stone dressings and copper bell-storey and lantern. Bronze plaques recessed in the basement to east and west record names of the dead and, added to south, those who died in the Second World War.
3. The Carillon sits in a square which is a paved and balustrade enclosure, with wide openings on each side. The Carillon has 47 bells, all of which were cast at the John Taylor Bell Foundry in Loughborough. There are two Carillon recitals a week (Thursdays and Sundays at 1pm) throughout the summer and one a month during the winter season (first Thursday of the month).
4. A carved dedication above the doors to the memorial speaks of the duty and privilege handed on to each generation to act as custodians and maintain the memorial and its significance for future generations: "We charge you to hand on the duty and privilege of maintaining and preserving this great memorial, so that future generations yet unborn may be reminded of the sacrifice which these men made and of the great principles for which they died"

Consultation with the War Memorials Trust and the Preparation of the Grant Submission

5. The Carillon Tower War Memorial is approaching its centenary in 2023 and as custodian of the tower the Council is seeking to secure funding from the War Memorials Trust (WMT) as part of their First World War commemoration fund which ends in November 2018. The WMT can support up to 75% of the total cost of a project.
6. The WMT has been established specifically to assist with the refurbishment of war memorials and the Trust have indicated they will only accept applications up until December 2017 to ensure work can be completed within 2018. A decision from the WMT is expected in February 2018.
7. The Council has established a project board to consider work to refurbish the Carillon Tower. Elements of the building have deteriorated over the years due to general weathering and use of the building. The Council's investment in the Carillon Tower is considered appropriate and will safeguard the building for the future.

8. The WMT have expressed interest in supporting the project. This support has been realised to date with the WMT part-funding condition surveys of all aspects of the Grade 2 listed building. The consultant's report has identified key works which are costed at circa £282,000 as set out in table 1 below.

Table 1 Full breakdown of works included in the surveyor's report

Refurbishment Works	Estimated Costs
Scaffolding of tower to facility required works with access controls due to location	£59,850
Stone & Brickwork Repairs & cleaning	£24,500
Bronze memorial plaques	£6,875
Copper roof (minor repairs)	£1,500
Tower windows, glazing and frames	£45,670
The Carillon and Clavier repairs and refurbishment by John Taylor's Bell Foundry	£102,977
Bell tower wooden doors ,louvres and stairs	£7,220
Visual experience in bell tower, lighting display of bells in position	£14,542
Internal plasterwork and redecoration	£4,750
External pathing and balustrade	£4,800
Contingency	£9,316
Total	(£282,000)

9. The final financial position will only be clear once the grant application process has been followed. The project board mandate is to secure £211,500 through the WMT or other funding sources which could include crowd funding to bridge any funding gaps. The total exposure without any funding secured is £282,000.
10. The procurement of the various elements of the project will be undertaken in line with the Council's financial and procurement rules. The procurement and delivery of the project will also need to meet the WMT grant rules and approval process (or other funders' requirements). Once the procurement has taken place grant funding applications will be made to WMT and other grant funders based on the confirmed costs.