



meeting Cabinet

date 14 November 2007

agenda item number

Joint Report of the Cabinet Members for Finance and Property, Culture and Regeneration and Environment

Sherwood Forest: The Living Legend Progress Report

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to outline the progress made to date including the “Sherwood Forest: The Living Legend” submission to the Big Lottery Fund 31st May 2007 and confirms spend to Quarter 2 2007/08 and a project spend up to Quarter 3 2007/08.

Background

2. A report to County Council on 7th March 2007 recommended that Cabinet should approve the revised estimated expenditure of up to £1,406,754 to support the development of a Stage 2 application. At this meeting, it was agreed that the shortfall between the BIG Lottery Fund grant of £500,000 and the actual expenditure would be met by the County Council.
3. On 31st May 2007 the project made their bid submission for BIG Lottery funding. If this submission is deemed to provide a viable project, the project will progress to the TV voting stage of the competition. The project was informed of the outcome of this assessment on the 23rd October 2007. The television programme to be shown on ITV will take place at the beginning of December 2007 with the live final scheduled for the second week in December.

Development Costs to end of Quarter 2 2007/08 and forecast of spend to Quarter 3 2007/08

4. The development costs associated with the Stage 2 submission have been reviewed, and a forecast of development costs until 31st December 2007 against estimated costs are detailed in the following table:

Activity	Expenditure approved Cabinet March 07	Projected Spend December 2007	% Variance
Staffing	135,447	155,000	+14%
Feasibility Study	42,000	40,438	-4%
Business plan	60,000	20,152	-66%
Community consultation/facilitation support	10,000	10,378	+4%
Interpretative design & management	25,000	17,362	-30%
Multi-user routes	65,000	65,000	-
Design competition fees	45,000	42,367	-6%
Environmental impact assessment	305,307	338,635	+11%
Contingencies for additional surveys	30,000	30,000	-
Planning fees	29,000	12,037	-58%
Planning Consultant	16,000	30,000	+87%
Consultant for campus	65,000	70,000	+8%
Architect & associated fees	380,000	421,165	+11%
Other project expenses	4,000	4,107	+3%
Marketing & PR	195,000	195,000	-
	1,406,754	1,451, 641	+3%

5. The additional costs which have been incurred/are forecasted to occur amounts to £44,887.00. The main reasons for cost variances are as follows:

- A number of activities including the Business Plan, Interpretative Design and Management and Planning were less than had been initially budgeted for.
- Fees for Planning Consultant, Campus Consultants and the Architect's team were higher than anticipated due to the fact that additional work was commissioned to secure successful planning applications for the visitor complex and the multi-user network.
- Project Staffing costs until 31st December 2007 were higher than initially budgeted for due to an under-estimation when this budget was initially set.

6. All staff contracts will expire on 31st December 2007, two weeks after the project outcome will be known. In the event that the project is successful in winning £50 million, it is critical that business continuity is maintained. In light of the confirmed departure of the Strategic Development Manager on 31st December 2007, it is proposed that the temporary contracts for dedicated project posts of Project Development Officers, Project Administrator and Senior Rights of Way Officer are extended until 31st March 2008 so that

essential work on the next stage of the work can continue unabated. The cost of extending the above posts until 31st March 2008 will be an additional £40,000.

In the event of the bid to the Lottery Fund being unsuccessful, a 4 week notice on these contracts will be issued on 01st January 2008.

Statutory and Policy Implications

7. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, Crime and Disorder and those using the service. Where such implications are material, they have been brought out in the text of the report.

Recommendations

8. It is recommended that Cabinet:
 - (a) Note the expenditure on the development grant.
 - (b) Approve a contingency allocation of £84,887 to support the additional costs.

Councillor Chris Baron
Cabinet Member for Finance & Property

Councillor Steve Carroll
Cabinet Member for Culture and Regeneration

Councillor Stella Smedley
Cabinet Member for Environment

Legal Services' Comments

This decision falls within the delegation to Cabinet.

Strategic Director (Resources) Financial Comments

As indicated in the report a request is being made for a contingency of £84,887 for additional costs of £44,887 and the extension of the temporary contracts £40,000. In the event of the project not being successful the amount of the contingency will be less. However the exact amount is difficult to evaluate because there could be Associated redundancy costs.PB-24-11-2007

Background Papers Available for Inspection

Joint Report of the Cabinet Members for Finance and Property, Culture and Regeneration and Environment, dated 7th March 2007

Electoral Division(s) Affected

All