

Subject:	Bacup Townscape Heritage Initiative – Stage 2 Bid	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet Council	Date:	12 th June 2013 17 th July 2013
Report of:	Head of Health, Housing & Regeneration	Portfolio Holder:	Regeneration, Tourism and Leisure
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	Yes	Attached: Yes – via web link
Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Required:	No	Attached: No
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1.	RECOMMENDATION(S)
1.1	To approve the Bacup Townscape Heritage Initiative bid.
1.2	All future minor amendments to the bid to be delegated to the Head of Health, Housing and Regeneration in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To update Members on the development of the Bacup Townscape Heritage Initiative bid and to recommend its approval.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:
- **Regenerating Rossendale:** This priority focuses on regeneration in its broadest sense, so it means supporting communities that get on well together, attracting sustainable investment, promoting Rossendale, as well as working as an enabler to promote the physical regeneration of Rossendale.
 - **Responsive Value for Money Services:** This priority is about the Council working collaboratively, being a provider, procurer and a commissioner of services that are efficient and that meet the needs of local people.
 - **Clean and Green Rossendale:** This priority focuses on clean streets and town centres and well managed open spaces, whilst recognising that the Council has to work with communities and as a partner to deliver this ambition.

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 (THI) 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. This stage 1 bid was successful.

5.2 In June 2012, Cabinet approved the formation of the Bacup THI Partnership Board whose role has been to advise and support the work involved in the THI bid development stage.

5.3 The bid has been finalised and considered by the Partnership Board who are recommending its approval.

- 5.4 The bid is for a total of £2million with £1.5million provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund and £500,000 match funding.
- 5.5 The main aspects of the bid are as follows:
- A total of 51 properties included in the scheme as critical, priority and reserve projects
 - A maximum grant rate of 90% for grants for 'repairs' to the exterior of buildings.
 - A maximum grant rate of 90% for reinstatement of architectural features externally.
 - A maximum grant rate of 75% for bringing vacant floor space back into use.
 - Development and delivery of a complimentary public realm strategy.
 - The opportunity for local training, work and apprenticeship places.
- 5.6 The outcome of the bid will be known in December 2013 and, if successful, the project will commence from April 2014.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

6. SECTION 151 OFFICER

6.1 To date £463k of the required £500k match funding has been identified from the following sources:

- £100k High-street Fund (grant to RBC)
- £50k Bacup Big Ideas (part disposal proceeds from Bacup Leisure Centre)
- £53k Town Centre Funding (grant to RBC)
- £65k Use of Regeneration reserves (LABGI grant to RBC)
- £95k s106 contributions
- £100k Lancashire County Council contribution

6.2 Members should ensure that the use of the above resources is considered in light of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and the financial pressures the Council is facing in other areas over the medium term.

7. MONITORING OFFICER

7.1 Comments included within the report.

8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

8.1 The Bacup THI project meets all three of the Council's Corporate Priorities in providing significant regeneration investment into a town centre and public space and a much needed boost to the local economy. Consultation has been carried out with local communities and businesses, Lancashire County Council, Local Councillors, Heritage Lottery Fund managers and local schools. This consultation has helped to inform and shape the final bid albeit within the constraints of the eligibility criteria of the scheme.

8.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken as part of this process and no adverse impacts have been identified on any specific protected equality groups. It should also be noted that this scheme could have a positive contribution to equality of opportunity and fostering good community relations. See impact assessment for full details.

9. CONCLUSION

9.1 The Bacup THI bid represents a significant opportunity to bring much needed investment into the area. The delivery of the programme will have an instant effect upon the town centre and provide a catalyst for local business investment.

Background Papers

Document	Place of Inspection
Bacup Townscape Heritage Initiative Stage 2 Bid	Room 203, Futures Park, Bacup.
Equality Impact Assessment – E2 Appendix 1	http://www.rossendale.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/752/council