

Council

22 April 2021

Report of Director of Community & Environmental Services

STEEPLE ARCH CEMETERY EXTENSION

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To request additional funds to meet the increased costs of the works for the extension of Steeple Arch Cemetery.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That up to an additional £70,000 is made available from the Capital Programme Reserve to cover the costs of the required works.

WARDS AFFECTED

Wirksworth

STRATEGIC LINK

This project forms part the District Council's Capital Programme which takes into account all the priorities and targets within the Corporate Plan these are identified in the Capital Strategy. The Capital Programme will assist in delivering Council services that are important to residents' well-being and the Dales economy.

1 REPORT

- 1.1 The Council approved the initial Capital Programme for 2020/21 at the Council meeting on 5th March 2020, this is included a sum of £60,000 for the extension of Steeple Arch Cemetery which was carried over from previous years.
- 1.2 Land has since been purchased to provide a site for the extension of the cemetery and, in the 12 months, officers have completed a procurement exercise for the following elements of the project:
 - Pathways
 - Hearse turning circle
 - Cultivating and seeding
 - Installation of two taps
 - Dry stone wall repairs/rebuild

- 1.3 The work still outstanding includes landscaping, such as footways, land cultivating, and installation of water supply, new plinths, repair to the existing dry stone wall and the supply and planting of mature hedging and trees across the site.
- 1.4 Cost for labour and materials have increased since the original project plan was developed 2018/19, however, the main cause for the increase in costs is the extent of the repair required for the dry stone wall (218 linear metres) and the need for this to be carried out by a specialist contractor.
- 1.5 Officers have followed the necessary procurement regulations and, through a competitive tendering process, have assessed 11 applications for the project, with only 3 bids being compliant.
- 1.6 Whilst the winning bid is £110,187.50, the cost of planting 63m of mature hedging and 37 trees across the site, along with the cost for materials and installation of the plinths, could be up to £20,000.
- 1.8 The reason for the emergency report is due to the first preferred bidder pulling out of the project following a site visit and the contract being awarded to the second successful bidder. This has placed an unforeseen time pressure on the project.

2 RISK ASSESSMENT

2.1 Legal

The report is considered an urgent report in line with the Council's Constitution. The Council's contract standing orders have been followed in respect of the procurement of the contract, thus the legal risk is low.

2.2 Financial

The £60,000 that is in the current capital programme for this project was due to be financed by capital receipts. However, at the current time, the capital receipts reserve has been fully utilised for other projects and cannot fund the additional £70,000 that is required. However, funding is available from the capital programme reserve. For the sake of clarity, it is recommended that the total project costs of £130,000 be funded from the capital programme reserve. The financial risk is assessed as 'medium'.

3 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 In preparing this report, the relevance of the following factors has also been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equalities, environmental, climate change, health, human rights, personnel and property.
- 3.2 The equalities implications of the proposals do not present any significant impacts in respect on any protected group. As with the introduction of remote meetings when restrictions began in March 2020, members of the public who do not have internet access will not be able to see or hear what has happened at a meeting. Social distancing measures restrict the ability to hold meetings that the public may attend in person and therefore no reasonable adjustment can be made. Reports and minutes of meetings will continue to be publicly available on the Council's website: again this will

continue to be the case until public access to and attendance at buildings can be restored and people will then be able to view paper copies of documents if they wish.

4 CONTACT INFORMATION

4.1 Vikki Hatfield, Neighbourhoods Manager, 01629 761377 or vikki.hatfield@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

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5 BACKGROUND PAPERS

5.1 None

6 ATTACHMENTS

6.1 None