

**MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**RECORD OF DECISION OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR LEISURE  
AND CULTURE**

Decision Made: 05 November 2010

**PROGRESSING MOTE PARK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

**Issue for Decision**

To consider giving authority to the Head of Legal Services to sign the contract from the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the Big Lottery Fund (HLF) accepting the offer of a grant towards the Mote Park Regeneration Project.

To consider agreeing to progress to the implementation stage of the Mote Park Regeneration Project and issue the contract documents for the work.

**Decision Made**

1. That delegated authority be given to the Head of Legal Services to approve and sign the contract submitted to the Council by the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the Big Lottery Fund (HLF) accepting the offer of an HLF grant towards the Mote Park Regeneration Project.
2. That the Cabinet be requested to release the Council's financial contribution for the scheme from the Capital Programme and commit the Council to implementing the scheme.
3. That, subject to confirmation from Cabinet, progression to the implementation stage of the Mote Park Regeneration Project and the issuing of the tender documents in January 2011 for the works be agreed.

**Reasons for Decision**

The Council applied for funding towards the Mote Park Regeneration Project to the Heritage Lottery Parks for People Scheme in September 2009. The Stage 1 application was approved and funding provided to progress to the detailed Stage 2 procedure.

The Stage 2 application was produced and submitted in June 2010 and reviewed by the Heritage Lottery Fund in September 2010. A grant of £1,867,000 was awarded to MBC towards the total cost of £2,505,752 for the restoration and site wide improvements to Mote Park.

As part of both the Stage 1 and 2 phases, a considerable amount of consultation was carried out with not only existing park users but also with potential future park users. This helped shape the final design for the scheme.

A decision was made by the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2008 that the "proposals for the regeneration of Mote Park with the assistance of the lottery bid as set out in the report of the Assistant Director of Regulatory and Environmental Services be supported". It was recommended that, now HLF funding has been awarded, the implementation stage of the project be permitted to begin and contract documents be prepared and issued for the works early in the new year.

The detailed offer from the HLF requires that the Council accept the offer within 21 working days of receipt.

However, this offer is different to previous HLF grants in that it requires the Council to confirm its financial contribution, throughout the term of the project, is available within 28 days of the signing of the agreement. This will mean that the Cabinet will need to release the capital funding to enable the improvements to proceed. Upon such agreement, the Council will be committed to completing the scheme.

A detailed report on the results of the tendering exercise will be provided in due course.

### **Alternatives considered and why rejected**

Alternative action could be to delay the signing of the contract with the HLF, but this was not recommended as it could potentially result in the HLF withdrawing their offer of funding.

Authority to progress to the implementation stage could be delayed; however, this is not supported as it would be likely that the deadlines set in the programme approved by the HLF will not be reached

### **Background Papers**

Record of Cabinet Decision "Mote Park Regeneration Scheme and its funding through a lottery bid" 12th September 2008.

The Mote Park Improvement Project Stage 1 and 2 submissions to the HLF Parks for People Scheme.

Should you be concerned about this decision and wish to call it in, please submit a call in form signed by any two Non-Executive Members to the Head of Change and Scrutiny by: <b>12 November 2010</b>
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