

REPORT TO CABINET

25 July 2018

Subject:	Action Taken on a Matter of Urgency – Lions of the Great War monument, High Street Smethwick
Presenting Cabinet Member:	Councillor Steve Eling- Leader of the Council
Director:	Executive Director- Resources- Darren Carter & Executive Director- Neighbours- Dr Alison Knight
Contribution towards Vision 2030:	
Key Decision:	No
Forward Plan (28-day notice) Reference:	Not applicable
Cabinet Member Approval and Date:	Councillor Steve Eling – 5 July 2018
Director Approval:	2 July 2018
Reason for Urgency:	To enable work to be completed for October 2018.
Exempt Information Ref:	Exemption provisions do not apply
Ward Councillor (s) Consulted (if applicable):	Ward councillors have not been consulted
Scrutiny Consultation Considered?	The Chair of the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board
Contact Officer(s):	Amarjit Sahota – Governance Lead amarjit_sahota@sandwell.gov.uk

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

1. Receives the details of the urgent action taken by the Executive Director- Resources and the Executive Director - Neighbourhoods to:-
 - allocate £25,000 to the Lions of the Great War monument, High Street Smethwick project from the West Midlands IT Block in 2018-19;
 - to allocate £145,000 from the council's capital sources towards the implementation of public realm improvements at High

Street/Tollhouse Way, Smethwick, using contractors appointed through the Black Country framework contract 2016-19;

- to explore funding options such as Community Infrastructure Levy as alternatives to council capital sources;
- that Strategic Finance appraise the project.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of a matter of urgency taken by the Executive Director- Resources and the Executive Director- Neighbourhoods in consultation with the Leader of the Council in relation to the Lions of the Great War monument, High Street Smethwick.

2 IMPLICATIONS FOR SANDWELL'S VISION

- 2.1 Ambition 8 - The Council's ambition to create environments in the six towns where people choose to live will be directly supported by the preservation and development of a thriving indoor market.

3 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 In March 2018, the council was contacted by the Guru Nanak Gurdwara (GNG), High Street Smethwick, with a proposal to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War by creating a statue of a WW1 Sikh warrior.
- 3.2 The Lions of the Great War monument will symbolise and commemorate the tremendous contribution and sacrifice made by Indian and south Asian soldiers who fought in the British armed forces during the Great War and in other conflicts.
- 3.3 The GNG pledged £30,000 to construct a 10ft bronze statue, and appointed local artist Luke Perry to undertake the commission. This sum covers the cost of designing and building the statue but excludes foundations, plinth and inscriptions.
- 3.4 The statue is to be sited on council-owned open space, forming part of the adopted highway, between High Street and Tollhouse Way, Smethwick, opposite Rolfe Street station. The GNG requested the council to contribute to the project by laying out a paved public space as a setting for the monument.

- 3.5 The council has agreed to create a high quality public realm as a setting for the monument. This work will include excavation and earthmoving; sub-base and paving; seating and planters; protective measures; granite plinth and inscriptions; foundation design and installation of the statue.
- 3.6 The project was formally launched in June 2018. Installation is to be complete by October 2018 in order that the monument can be unveiled in time for the centenary of Armistice Day, marking the end of the Great War, on November 11th 2018.
- 3.7 The need for the Urgent Action was to enable the instruction of contractors week commencing 9 July 2018 so that orders for materials can be placed, and for the works to commence and be completed by October 2018.
- 3.8 The total cost of the works is estimated at £170,000. The work is to be undertaken through the Black Country framework contract 2016-19. Design of the public space is complete and work needs to begin on site at the beginning of July in order that deadlines are met.
- 3.9 A contribution of £25,000 has been allocated from Transport for West Midlands IT Block in 2018-19, reflecting the value of the cycleway element. Although there may be some additional contributions available from unspent S106 sources, the balance of funding, up to a maximum of £145,000, is to come from council capital budgets.
- 3.10 Maintenance and cleaning of the monument will be carried out by the GNG. Maintenance and cleaning of the public open space will be carried out by Serco.
- 3.1 Lighting (spot lights on existing lighting columns etc.) will be paid for by the GNG and put on a private meter.

4 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

- 4.1 Extensive research and consultation was carried out by the artist, including a consultation workshop with primary school children; a cultural history collaboration and extensive time in the Gurdwara talking to the Punjabi School, temple elders and descendants of military personnel involved in the wars.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 5.1 No alternative options.

6 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.2 There is no requirement to conduct an Equality Impact Assessment.

7 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.2 There are no specific data protection implications arising from the contents of this report.

8 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT

8.2 There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from the contents of this report.

9 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

9.2 There are no sustainability issues arising from the contents of this report.

10 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

10.2 There are no specific health and wellbeing implications arising from the contents of this report.

11 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND

11.2 There will be no impact on any council managed property or land.

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1 Letter to Chief Executive from Guru Nanak Gurdwara March 2018 and Report to Leaders April 2018.

13 APPENDICES:

None

Darren Carter
Executive Director- Resources

Dr Alison Knight
Executive Director- Neighbourhoods