



CABINET – 30TH JULY 2013

SUBJECT: NATIONAL MINING MEMORIAL, SENGHENYDD

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the current position with the development of the Welsh National Mining Memorial at Senghenydd and to provide an update on the current financial position with the project, including the Council's contribution, as we move towards the Centenary on October 14th this year.

2. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 2.1 Enhancing Tourism is an integral part of the Council's Regeneration Framework. This project will contribute to the overall aims contained within the Council's Living Environment and Regeneration objectives.

3. THE REPORT

- 3.1 The background to the project was outlined in a Cabinet report on January 15th 2013, explaining that the Aber Valley Heritage Group wish to create a national memorial to commemorate all mining disasters throughout the Principality and to acknowledge the centenary of the worst ever British Mining disaster, when 439 men and boys were killed at Senghenydd on October 14th 1913. As a result of this report, members agreed to endorse a financial contribution of £50,000 towards the project.
- 3.2 Given the high profile nature of this scheme and the fact that the deadline is not flexible, the Council has committed substantial funding, time and resources to ensure its success. This report outlines the contributions made in more detail and seeks to secure the Council's continuing commitment.
- 3.3 The Project comprises of a number of distinct phases, namely:
- Site Preparation, Design and the Memorial statue (Phase 1),
 - Memorial Garden (Phase 2),
 - Centenary Event (Phase 3),
 - and Memorial Pathway (Phase 4).

Full details of all costs of the 4 phases as currently known are attached an Appendix.

Phase 1: Site Preparation, Design and the Statue Itself

- 3.4 In order to prepare the site for the proposed garden and to satisfy planning and Environmental Health conditions, various surveys and investigatory works were required which have been funded almost exclusively through CCBC funding. A design for the memorial garden also

needed to be developed and so the Aber Valley Heritage Group appointed a Landscape Architect to design the garden. This was then detailed up by CCBC Engineering Consultancy in order to go out to competitive tender. These fees have been funded through CCBC from the Urban Renewal section under spend (£24,000) and Area Forum budget (£6,140).

- 3.5 The previous Cabinet report explained that the memorial statue itself would need to be commissioned in January 2013 in order for it to be ready for the centenary event. Cabinet approved a decision to donate £50,000 to the fund. However, at the time of commissioning (early February) the total amount of £120,000 had not been secured. The shortfall of £17,000 has been met from the Urban Renewal Budget.

Phase 2: Memorial Garden

- 3.6 The landscaping contract to create the Memorial Garden has been out to competitive tender with two options, the comprehensive full scheme and a reduced scheme that omits the public car park from the design. The contract has been awarded, on the basis of the reduced scheme, as there are unlikely to be sufficient funds to implement the comprehensive design.
- 3.7 The Aber Valley Heritage Group is acting as Client and has appointed the contractor. Works started late April/early May to ensure completion in time for the October event. CCBC Engineering Consultancy are managing the contract alongside the landscape architect working on behalf of the Heritage Group.
- 3.8 The sum of £29,000 has been met from the urban renewal under spends from 2012/2013 to fund the garden and enable work to start. There remains, however, only a small sum to cover any contingencies – so this report requests an additional £20,000 from underspends to cover these as well and to note that £29,000 has already been committed from Urban Renewal. It is hoped that all of this sum may not be needed. However, past experience shows that it would be prudent to add a sum of money in as a contingency to deal with any unforeseen items which may arise before the works which are now underway are finally completed.

Phase 3: Centenary Event

- 3.9 The Memorial Garden and Statue will be formally unveiled on the centenary of the Universal Colliery Disaster – 14th October 2013. Two events are being planned for the day to commemorate the miners who lost their lives one hundred years ago. A dedication service will be held late morning and then a lantern parade in the evening, in which the community will be encouraged to participate.
- 3.10 Given the high profile of the Centenary, both events are likely to be very well attended and will attract significant media attention. Given all resources have been committed to try to ensure that the garden and statue are in place for the centenary, this has resulted in no budget being available for the opening event.
- 3.11 An Events Sub-Group has been set up with Council Officers and members of the Aber Valley Heritage Group are working together to finalise the arrangements for the day. The Events Manager is part of this group and an indicative budget of £15,000 has been identified to cover items such as a marquee, road closures, generators and catering for 500 guests. These figures are based on considerable experience of running events such as the Big Cheese etc. Although the event may eventually cost less, due to donations / fundraising, it is considered prudent to set aside this amount at this stage if it can be funded from departmental reserves. Phases 1 to 3 are the phases which must be completed by the centenary date and so for that reason, your officers' efforts have been concentrated on ensuring these are in place.

Phase 4: National Memorial Pathway

- 3.12 The National Memorial Pathway consists of individual tiles dedicated to mining disasters that have occurred throughout Wales, making up a circular pathway bisecting the garden. The Heritage Group has written to all Welsh Local Authorities requesting contributions based on

the number of colliery disasters within their borough. Pledges have been received from a number of local authorities and community councils to date but not all have responded and there is currently still a shortfall - which could mean that the pathway will not be in situ by the centenary event. This, however, is not crucial for the event to proceed. The Aber Valley Heritage Group are continuing to raise funds and although the Pathway's completion is not necessary to hold the event, they are optimistic that it can be done in time, thus fully completing the whole project.

- 3.13 Meanwhile, the Heritage Group are yet to receive formal written confirmation of CCBC's contribution towards tiles for disasters within the Caerphilly County Borough. There would be 14 tiles at a total cost of £7,000. This report asks for approval of the sum of £7,000 to covers the Council's contribution to the Pathway. This can be met from the Urban Renewal capital under spends. The £7,000 contribution is the total requested from CCBC for this final phase of the project.
- 3.14 Although substantial funding has been secured which includes a large proportion from Caerphilly County Borough Council, there remains a shortfall, covering all items except the completion of the Pathway (i.e. the elements which are crucial to a successful event taking place on October 14th which this report now tries to formally resolve). The Aber Valley Heritage Group are currently pursuing a number of fundraising activities and options that will help reduce the shortfall, including the release of 'A Miners Song' CD sung by many well known Welsh artists. This report covers the 'worst case scenario' by asking CCBC to carry the risk and ensure that this significant project and event in our County Borough is the success it should be, in memory of the many miners who lost their lives.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no equalities implications.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The report asks Cabinet to note the utilisation of urban renewal capital budget under spend from 2012/2013 financial year as outlined in paragraphs 3.4 to 3.8 and paragraph 3.13 above.

Phase 1	Site Preparation and Design and Memorial Statue	£41,000
Phase 2	Memorial Garden	£49,000
Phase 4	Memorial Pathway	£ 7,000
	TOTAL:	£97,000

- 5.2 In addition the report requires Cabinet approval to the utilisation of £15,000 existing divisional reserves to fund the centenary events as outlined in paragraphs 3.9 to 3.11.
- 5.3 Total required funding is £112,000 as noted in paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2 above.
- 5.4 Cabinet previously approved a decision to donate £50,000 to part fund phase 2 of the Memorial Statue.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no personnel implications.

7. CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 The views of consultees are included in this report.

- 7.2 CMT expressed their disappointment that the project proceeded without a Full Business Case and approval was not sought in advance of the commitments given in terms of the funding in relation to this project.
- 7.3 CMT acknowledged that the current Head of Service was not responsible for the fact that the project has been progressed on an ad hoc basis as the officer was not in post at the time. Arrangements are now in place to ensure that projects of this nature are only progressed with prior approval of a Full Business Case.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That Cabinet notes the utilisation of £97,000 existing urban renewal capital under spend from 2012/2013 to support phases of the scheme as detailed in the report and outlined in paragraph 5.1 above.
- 8.2 That Cabinet recommends the utilisation of £15,000 from existing Divisional reserves to fund the centenary events as detailed in the report and outlined in paragraph 5.2.

9. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 To enable the first National Mining Memorial in Wales to be delivered successfully and ensure that a fitting tribute is provided on this important anniversary.

10. STATUTORY POWER

- 10.1 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000.

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Consultees: Sandra Aspinall – Acting Director of the Environment
Tony Maher – Assistant Director, Planning & Strategy (Education)
Mike Eedy – Finance Manager
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Allan Dallimore – Team Leader (Urban Renewal)
Gail Williams – Principal Solicitor
Councillor Ken James – Cabinet Member
Councillor Lyndon Binding – Ward Member
Councillor John Eryl Roberts – Ward Member
Councillor John Taylor – Ward Member

Appendices:
Appendix 1 Financial Profile
Appendix 2 Memorial Garden Designs