

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting12th October 2017

1. Title of Item/Report

Preston Park Master Plan Update

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report that provided an update on the Preston Park Master Plan.

Following previous reports setting out the Council's intention to define a framework for the continued improvement of Preston Park Museum and Grounds (PPMG), the report presented the medium and long term priorities for development. If approved they would form the basis of detailed work and future funding bids as appropriate.

The master plan was attached to the report and set out a number of medium and long term proposals that could not currently be resourced but which were still critical to understanding the context of the shorter term measures the Council may be able to fund. The plan was annotated to show those developments which were likely to be eligible to be funded by the Heritage Lottery, however, the match funding required to supporting these improvements may not be a priority at this time.

It was also noted that following a restructure, the Council had new staff and management arrangements in place, bringing the different Council teams within the attraction together under a new PPMG Development and Operations Manager. The new management team would be responsible for scoping and investigating the detail of any developments proposed within the plan, utilising their experience and knowledge of parks and heritage attractions.

The approach to future developments within the Park and any detailed work undertaken on proposals set out in the attached Master Plan would be informed by the findings of the ongoing Scrutiny Committee investigation into Anti-social Behaviour in the park.

The master plan outlined 28 areas for improvement, development or creation. These ranged from restoring boundary fencing, improving signage to investigating the feasibility of introducing new catering

opportunities within PPMG.

As set out in preceding paragraphs the most important work in the medium term was likely to be the modification of the car parking and traffic flow systems and the improvement of the central café, toilets and pedestrian area. Shorter term work on pathways and signage were also a priority to encourage better use of the 110 acre site and to ensure the safety of visitors. Overarching this entire plan was always the vision to establish PPMG as a major visitor destination under one brand, rather than the current disjointed feel the site had developed over time.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The Preston Park Museum & Grounds Master Plan 2018 – 2028 be approved as a basis for the ongoing development of the visitor attraction.
2. Detailed further work be approved on possible traffic flow and car parking solutions and café and toilet improvements as a matter of priority.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To agree a set of priorities for the future development of Preston Park Museum & Grounds which will provide the basis for medium and long-term funding bids and investment to meet the growing needs of visitors to the attraction.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight, 20 October 2017

Proper Officer
16 October 2017