CABINET

Improvement of Borough War Memorials

Report of Elaine McLean, Executive Director; Economy, Place and Skills

Portfolio Holder : Cllr J Stretton; Neighbourhoods

12 September 2011

Officer Contact : Carol Brown, AED; Environment Ext. 4452

Purpose of Report
The purpose of this report is to outline the improvements needed to a number of War Memorials across the Borough to secure their long term future and to enhance their appearance to a standard fit for purpose.

Recommendations
Members are recommended to approve up to £50,000 of revenue funding to support the improvement of the Borough’s War Memorials.
Cabinet 12th September

Improvement of Borough War Memorials

1  Background

1.1 There are 16 War Memorial sites across the Borough as given at Appendix I.

1.2 A number of the sites require improvement to ensure that they are appropriately maintained as a public memorial.

1.3 Several Memorial sites have already been refurbished with the support of local District Partnership and Parish Council monies including:
   - Memorial Gardens, Manchester Road, Failsworth
   - Royton Park
   - South African War Memorial - Shaw Memorial Gardens
   - Austerlands
   - Chadderton Town Hall
   - St Margarets Hollinwood

2  Proposal

2.1 The current budget allows for the general maintenance of memorials, which includes:
   - Daily litter cleansing
   - Sweeping
   - Grounds Maintenance including planting bedding and bulbs
   - Weed, moss and algae control
   - Occasional graffiti removal and washing down
   - Repairs to paving, steps and hard standing surrounds
   - Painting of bollards.

Preparation for Remembrance Services held in November together with other significant commemorative occasions which include:

   - Holocaust day
   - D Day
   - Anniversaries
   - Armed Forces Day

Memorials are visited and specific works undertaken, including on the day to ensure they are clean, tidy and safe.
Although there is no specific budget for war memorials the above general maintenance is carried out within existing budgets as part of the general parks and Street scene annual maintenance programme.

2.2 It is proposed that the works identified in Appendix I be funded to ensure that the memorials across the Borough are fit for purpose. It is estimated that the revenue cost of the works will be in the region of £50,000. Any works identified which require further revenue or capital investment will be considered within the budget setting process.

3 Financial Implications

3.1 The emergency revenue budget report was considered and approved at the Council meeting on 20th July 2011. The report set out budgetary changes via investments and savings to align with the priorities of the Administration. The approved budget now includes resources of £112k for a Leadership Priority Investments / New Ways of Working Transition Fund. This Fund is to be used to finance the estimated £50k for the works to ensure that that war memorials are fit for purpose as identified in Appendix 1.

3.2 If a subsequent review of the memorials indicates that there is a requirement for additional funding of either a revenue or capital nature, this will be incorporated within the budget setting process for 2012/13 and future financial years. [Anne Ryans]

4 Legal Services Comments

4.1 There are no legal issues associated with the allocation of funding. [Daniel Howard]

5 Human Resources Comments

5.1 None

6 Risk Assessments

6.1 Appropriate Risk Assessments will be undertaken prior to any proposed works.

7 IT Implications

7.1 None

8 Property Implications

8.1 There are no direct property implications to be addressed within this report. [Mark Elton]
9  Procurement Implications
9.1  None

10  Environmental and Health & Safety Implications
10.1  The maintenance of the memorial structures is essential to ensure health and safety issues are fully considered.

11  Equality, community cohesion and crime implications
11.1  None

12  Equality Impact Assessment Completed?
12.1  No

13  Key Decision
13.1  No

14  Forward Plan Reference
14.1  N/A

15  Background Papers
15.1  The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does not include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by the Act:

16  Appendices
16.1  War Memorial Sites in Oldham.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Improvement Works required</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Gardens Manchester Road Failsworth</td>
<td>General maintenance</td>
<td>£2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chadderton Cemetery</td>
<td>Maintained by Commonwealth War Graves Commission</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royton Park</td>
<td>General maintenance</td>
<td>£1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaw Memorial Gardens</td>
<td>Paving in need of pointing to East of monument</td>
<td>£3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South African War Memorial</td>
<td>General maintenance</td>
<td>£500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaw and Crompton Beacon</td>
<td>General maintenance</td>
<td>£500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Terrace, Oldham Town Centre</td>
<td>Stone paving in need of pointing and replacing in part. Works to repair memorial to be fully scoped and costed</td>
<td>£15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterhead War Memorial</td>
<td>General maintenance Lettering needs blackening</td>
<td>£1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lees Cemetery</td>
<td>Weed treatment to paving. Replacement of plant containers. Lettering needs blackening. Bench replacing</td>
<td>£4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>£1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Chad's Uppermill</td>
<td>Paving in need of repair. Copings to replace and lettering needs blackening</td>
<td>£4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>£1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bardsley War Memorial</td>
<td>Full refurbishment of monument and remodelling of site required to include signposting</td>
<td>£5,000 (For consultation, design and options appraisal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenacres Cemetery First World War Memorial</td>
<td>Maintained by Commonwealth War Graves Commission</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austerlands War Memorial</td>
<td>Lettering needs blackening</td>
<td>£1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Work Needed</td>
<td>Cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chadderton Town Hall</td>
<td>General maintenance</td>
<td>£1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tandle Hill Memorial</td>
<td>Access steps in need of repair</td>
<td>£4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pots and Pans</td>
<td>Access steps and railings in need of repair</td>
<td>£4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Margarets Hollinwood</td>
<td>General maintenance</td>
<td>£1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total**                  **£50,000**