

## THE EXECUTIVE

2 AUGUST 2005

### REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT

*This report is submitted under Agenda Item 8. The Chairman will be asked to decide if it can be considered at the meeting under the provisions of Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 as a matter of urgency, so as to avoid delay in the commencement of works on site.*

<b>Title: Peace and Memorial Garden Central Park: New Capital Project 2005/06</b>	<b>For Decision</b>
<p><b>Summary:</b></p> <p>The Leader of the Council and Officers have been working on a project to commission the development of a Peace and Memorial Garden in recognition that a space is needed within the Borough to commemorate the civilians who have lost their lives in the many atrocities and hostilities that have happened around the world and closer to home those that have lost their lives, not only in the bombing raids of the Second World War but in terrorist attacks. It is hoped that the Garden will also raise awareness of the millions of people who have suffered tyranny and persecution. The Garden can also be used for educational purposes, to create understanding of why individuals have in the past, and still do, flee from tyranny and conflict and seek asylum away from persecution.</p> <p>The Garden will provide a spot which all residents and visitors of the Borough can visit as an area of quiet reflection.</p> <p>The aim is to have Phase One of the Peace and Memorial Garden ready for opening in January 2006 to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day.</p> <p>Funding needs to be agreed for the project to be undertaken.</p> <p><b>Wards Affected:</b> Heath Ward</p>	
<p><b>Implications:</b></p> <p><b>Financial:</b></p> <p>The total Capital costs for the elements are £175,000. This could be funded from Revenue underspends in 2004/05 reported to the Executive on 12 July 2005.</p> <p>The anticipated annual Revenue costs will be in the order of £5,000 per financial year, and this can be met from existing Leisure and Community budgets.</p> <p><b>Legal:</b></p> <p>None</p>	

**Risk Management:**

The Director of Regeneration and Environment has set aside appropriate resources have been allocated to ensure delivery of Phase One of this project by 27 January 2006 and completion by September 2006.

**Social Inclusion and Diversity:**

The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 places a requirement on local authorities to make an assessment of the impact of new and revised policies in terms of race equality. Existing policies have already been subjected to impact assessments. This Authority has adopted an approach of extending the impact to cover gender, disability, sexuality, faith, age and community cohesion.

As this report does not concern a new or revised policy there are no specific adverse impacts insofar as this report is concerned.

However, the Garden can be used by people of all ages, beliefs, faiths and disability.

**Crime and Disorder:**

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a responsibility on local authorities to consider the crime and disorder implications of any proposals. In relation to this report the proposals are aimed providing facilities to create community ownership of the area.

**Recommendations**

The Executive is recommended to agree to:

1. The inclusion of £175,000 for the Peace and Memorial Garden in Central Park in the Capital Programme (as profiled in paragraph 3.1.4); and
2. Fund the project from £120,000 of 2004/05 Revenue underspends as reported to the Executive on 12 July 2005 and £50,000 of slippage from other capital projects within the overall Capital Programme (to be identified by the Director of Regeneration and Environment and the Director of Finance).

**Reasons**

To assist the Council in achieving its Community Priorities of *“Raising General Pride in the Borough”*, *“Making Barking and Dagenham Cleaner, Greener and Safer”*, *“Promoting Better Education and Learning for All”* and *“Promoting Equal Opportunities and Celebrating Diversity”*.

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## **1. Background and key objectives**

- 1.1 The scheme involves the creation of a Peace and Memorial Garden in Central Park between the Fire Station and Civic Centre. The Garden will be of a high standard with appropriate planting and landscaping broken into three themed sections. The sections will represent Persecution, Despair and Hope. Each section will contain artwork representing the theme and interpretation media. A plan showing the layout of the Garden is attached as Appendix A.
- 1.2 It is intended that Phase One of the Garden will be ready to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January 2006.
- 1.3 Funding will need to be agreed in the 2005/06 financial year to create the Peace and Memorial Garden in Central Park as to date funding has not been secured to deliver these improvements within the existing Capital Programme for the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy. This is the result of other park priorities needing to be addressed first.
- 1.4 **Project Objectives**

The project is aimed at increasing usage and satisfaction levels with the Park and to create a site to commemorate the various atrocities which have taken place around the world in recent years, many of which have affected residents of the Borough.

### **Timescale:**

#### **Peace and Memorial Garden construction, planting and Artwork Phases.**

<b>Works</b>	<b>Completion date</b>
Phase One Inception and Feasibility	July / August 2005
Construction and Autumn/ Winter Planting	September / December 2005
Opening ceremony for Phase One	27 January 2006
Phase Two – Spring planting and completion of Phase two Art work.	September 2006

## **2. Relationships with other initiatives and other issues**

- 2.1 The Project links into the Council Community Priorities of:
- Making Barking and Dagenham Cleaner, Greener and Safer.
  - Promoting Equal Opportunities and Celebrating Diversity.
  - Raising General Pride in the Borough.
  - Better Education and Learning for All.
- 2.2 The project will also highlight the Council's commitment to community cohesion and new the recently agreed Partnership Community Cohesion Strategy.
- 2.3 The Project also links into the Leisure and Community Services Balanced Scorecard contribution to the high quality of parks and green spaces.

- 2.4 In a Pan-London context this project relates to Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) Thames Gateway Objectives – improving the environmental quality and image of the area and provide enhancements to open spaces that will improve the quality of the area to live and to work.
- 2.5 If the decision is not taken to undertake the project not only will the opportunity be lost to provide feature to reduce the ‘green desert’ landscape of the Park but there will be no physical reminder of the loss of civilian lives in the Borough.
- 2.6 The work will not exceed EU Procurement Regulations thresholds and will also be below the £200,000 limit by which Executive approval to seek and accept tenders is required. It is intended that the project will be undertaken by using a mixture of existing Term Contracts, as well as individual quotations in line with the Council’s Constitution (Part D Contracts Rules) for specialist supplies, and the Council’s Parks Maintenance Service,

### 3. Financial Implications

#### 3.1 Capital Issues

- 3.1.2 A sum of £175,000 is required for the project. This could be met from Revenue underspends in 2004/05 reported to the Executive on 12 July 2005 (£120,000) and £55,000 of slippage within the Capital Programme. (Minute 65, 12 July 2005 refers). It should, however, be noted that by using the funds for this purpose will prevent the resources being used on other projects (Capital or Revenue) at a later date.
- 3.1.3 The scheme has been through the Capital Programme Monitoring Office (CPMO) process and it achieved “Four Greens” status.
- 3.1.4 As mentioned above the total Capital costs for the elements are £175,000 and this is inclusive of all fees and contingencies. The anticipated expenditure is shown below.

	<b>2005/06</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Construction (Fencing and Infrastructure) and Planting	£100,000	£40,000	<b>£140,000</b>
Opening Ceremony and (Artwork Design)	£5,000		<b>£5,000</b>
Art Work (Phase Two)	£5,000	£25,000	<b>£30,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£110,000</b>	<b>£65,000</b>	<b>£175,00</b>

- 3.1.5 Numerous organisations have been approached for a financial contribution towards the gardens installation and although this scheme is not likely to generate any significant income, any contributions received will reduce the burden on the Capital Programme.

## 3.2 Revenue Issues

3.2.1 As the area will change from mown grass to shrubs and plants the increased Revenue costs for the ongoing maintenance of the new Peace and Memorial Garden area are estimated to be £5,000. This additional maintenance cost will be met through the re-prioritisation of existing maintenance budgets for this by the removal of the rose beds which are located along the southern perimeter of the Park which run parallel with Rainham Road North.

## 4. Consultation

### 4.1 Officers

The following Officers have been consulted on this report and have either raised no objections or have indicated they are happy with the report as it stands.

#### **Corporate Strategy**

Muhammad Saleem, Solicitor to the Council  
Robin Hanton, Corporate Lawyer and Deputy Monitoring Officer  
Bill Coomber, Corporate Equalities and Diversity Adviser

#### **Housing and Health**

Jeff Eslom, Crime and Anti Social Behaviour Unit Manager.

#### **Finance**

Julie Parker, Director of Finance.  
Alexander Anderson, Head of Finance (DRE).  
Tony Middleton, Management Auditor.

### 4.2 Councillors

The following Councillors have been advised of the proposals.

#### **Portfolio holders**

Leader of the Council, Councillor Fairbrass.  
Community Development and Safety Portfolio (Parks), Councillor Geddes.  
Adult Social Services and Lifelong Learning Portfolio (Finance), Councillor Bramley.

#### **Heath Ward Councillors**

Councillors Fairbrass, Kallar and Osborn.

## **Background Papers**

- Executive Report and Minute 65, 12 July 2005. Re: Council's Revenue and Capital Outturn 2004/2005
- Parks and Green Spaces Strategy (May 2003)
- Partnership Community Cohesion Strategy