REPORT

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
CHIEF EXECUTIVE	CABINET	15 JANUARY 2014	8

LYTHAM HALL CAPITAL GRANT MONITORING REPORT

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

The report provides an update on the expenditure of the capital grant awarded to Lytham Hall in August 2011.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Cabinet note the capital grant awarded to Lytham Hall is being spent in accordance with the Heads of Terms as at April 1st 2012 on the restoration project and the required monitoring information has been made available.
2. That the Cabinet and any other interested elected members take up the offer to contact Darren Bell who will organise a visit to the venue through the Project Manager to see the latest development work and future plans.

CABINET PORTFOLIO

This item falls within the following cabinet portfolio:

Finance and Resources - Councillor Karen Buckley.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

The Cabinet decision to award £300,000 capital funding support to the Lytham Hall Heritage Restoration Project in August 2011.

Approval of the Capital Monitoring Report in July 2012

REPORT

1. In August 2011 the Council agreed to pay a one off capital grant of £300,000 to Lytham Hall to support the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Restoration Project, including restoration of the historic buildings and landscapes; sustaining investment in the long term through delivery of a management and maintenance plan; and increasing the use and footfall of the facility

through the delivery of an activity development plan, to ensure the continued accessibility of Lytham Hall and associated country park.

2. In accordance with the Heads of Terms agreed as a requirement of the capital grant monitoring reports are submitted to the Council and financial records made available for inspection. This is the second monitoring report that has been produced.

3. Council officers have viewed the financial accounts of the Heritage Trust for the North West, the company which is managing the Lytham Hall restoration project (along with a number of restoration projects in the North West of England). The accounts confirm the award of a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund of £2.59m, along with a further capital grant from Fylde Borough Council of £300,000, towards the total project cost of almost £6m. With nearly all the funding now in place, the Heritage Lottery Fund gave the Trust permission to commence the scheme in March 2013.

4. Since the last monitoring report to Cabinet in July 2012 the project has progressed as planned with a strong focus on opening up the gardens and grounds to increase access and footfall in the surrounds of the Hall. The restoration of the Parkland has been continuing throughout 2013 with significant progress having been made clearing and revealing the Mount and the felling of non- protected trees to expose vistas.

5. A number of members and officers attended the Open Day held on Sunday April 28th 2013 to witness firsthand the progress made to date and the proposed plans for the HLF project as well as a guided tour of the Hall and grounds. A further meeting was held on Tuesday September 10th 2013 for members and officers to receive an update on the project, funding and the new appointments that had been made.

6. A significant action completed in 2013 crucial to the project has been the recruitment of the three full time staff; a Project Manager, an Activity Plan Officer and a Volunteer & Training Coordinator. The three posts are employed by Heritage Trust for the North West and are based at Lytham Hall and the employees started in post in Autumn 2013 on three year contracts to coincide with key project timescales.

7. The Project Manager has produced a project timetable for the restoration and conservation of the Hall, with the majority of 2014 focused on preparation which involves moving and packing the collection and archive, reviewing the listed building proposals and cost plan and procuring the main contractor. Works to restore the main Georgian Hall will take place throughout 2015, followed by works to restore the Jacobean Hall and Courtyard in 2016. A permanent exhibition will be installed in 2016 with completion of the HLF project phase of the development scheduled for August 2016.

8. A diverse and increased programme of events and activities will be developed every year to increase participation and learning about the heritage of Lytham Hall and to increase revenue income for the running costs of the Hall. The 2014 events leaflet is due to be printed in December 2013 and is always available from the Town Hall and One Stop Shop reception points.

9. The Cabinet and any interested elected members can attend a tour of Lytham Hall to evidence firsthand the project and the valuable contribution the grant has made. The Head of Service for Leisure and Culture, Darren Bell, will set a date in Spring 2014 with the Project Manager and invite all members to a site visit.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	There is no change to the financial position of the Council arising from the report.
Legal	There is no change to the legal position of the Council arising from the report.
Community Safety	There are no direct community safety implications arising from the report.
Human Rights and Equalities	There are no direct human rights and equalities implications arising from the report.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	There are no direct sustainability and environmental impact implications arising from the report.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	There are no direct health and safety or risk management implications arising from the report.

REPORT AUTHOR	TEL	DATE	DOC ID
Allan Oldfield	01253 658500	December 2013	

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Cabinet Agenda & Minutes	2010 - 2011	http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/decentralisation/localismbill/