

Record of Decisions

Torre Abbey Restoration Project - Phase 3 National Heritage Lottery Fund Bid

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 20 February 2020

Decision

The Cabinet recommends to Council:

- (i) that the Director of Place be authorised to submit a National Heritage Lottery Fund (Round 1) application for £4.875m for Phase 3 of the Torre Abbey Restoration Programme as described in the submitted report; and
- (ii) that Council agrees to borrow up to £1.7m to provide the financial commitment outlined in this report and underwrite any possible shortfall in the third party matched funding element of the package.

Reason for the Decision

To support a bid for funding of the Torre Abbey Restoration Phase 3 project to help protect the Abbey, a scheduled ancient monument, for the benefit of the local community and our visitors.

Implementation

The recommendations of the Cabinet will be considered at the Council meeting on 27 February 2020.

Information

The submitted report sought approval to re-submit a Phase 3 Round 1 bid to the National Heritage Lottery Fund (NHLF) in May 2020 in respect of the Torre Abbey Restoration Programme. Whilst the Council was unsuccessful with the first Phase 3 Round 1 bid in June 2018, officers were encouraged by NHLF to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for Torre Abbey in respect of the re-launched Heritage Lottery funding programme. This most recent EOI was successful and as a result, in 2019, the NHLF invited the Council to submit a Round 1 application for Phase 3 of the Torre Abbey restoration project.

In previous rounds the Council, supported by the TDA, had successfully obtained HLF funding in excess of £7m which had been matched with funding contributions from Torbay Council, the Friends of Torre Abbey (FOTA) and others to reach a total investment of circa £11m for the two earlier phases of restoration and redevelopment (2006 ~ 2013). Phase 3 would require the Council borrowing up to £1.7m to underwrite any shortfall in the third party matched funding element of the package.

Councillor Morey proposed and Councillor Long seconded a motion which was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

Alternative options were set out in the submitted report.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

No

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None

Published

24 February 2020

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet