

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

Reference Number:

3539

Author:

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Department:

Commercial and Operations

Contact:

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Subject:

Newstead Abbey West Front and Cannon Fort repair project

Total Value:

£310,000 (Type: Capital and Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

1. To approve expenditure totalling £310,000 for improvements to the Newstead Abbey West Front and Cannon Fort.
2. To accept £151,334 grant funding from Historic England.
3. To accept £57,000 grant funding from the World Monument Fund, managed through Newstead Abbey Partnership.
4. To approve the use of earmarked reserves held by the Council which have been replenished from Newstead Abbey's Adopt a Stone Appeal and donations and further fundraising activity e.g. Lord Byron's Ball, which will be used to lever in further external grants to cover the cost of future repair work.
5. To approve delegated authority to the Director of Sport and Culture to carry out a tender process and award contracts as appropriate in relation to the proposed improvements.

**Reasons for the Decision(s)**

Historic England and the World Monument Fund have approved grant funding to the Council for 12th Century West Front and 15th Century Cannon Fort improvements.

Following on from previous work delivered over the last decade the museum service has been working for over two years to secure funding to remove Newstead Abbey from the Heritage at Risk Register. The service has succeeded and recently been awarded a grants from Historic England and the World Monument Fund to undertake a development phase to include both the 12th Century West Front and 15th Century Cannon Fort as well as complete the essential repair work to the West Front and Cannon Fort. The service is incredibly grateful to have received such a large grant fund from Historic England, who rarely award such sizable grants so we are incredibly fortunate.

Historic England have stipulated in their grant offer that due to previous condition and structural reports being completed on the West Front and in order that the repair work can commence spring 2019 the development phase was shortened from 12 months to 6 months commencing summer 2018 and complete by March 2019. A Project Lead Advisor was appointed and the development phase was delivered successfully. Moving into the repair work phase a contractor needs to be appointed to deliver the repair work in 2019. Further fundraising activity, Lord Byron's Ball, will continue to match fund the additional grant from Historic England most recently awarded to also complete the repairs of the Cannon Fort. Repairing both aspects of Newstead Abbey will remove the site from Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register. Currently all necessary match funding is from the service donations and therefore project delivery is at no cost to the Council.

**Other Options Considered:**

**Do Nothing - REJECTED** as Newstead Abbey is a scheduled ancient monument and listed structure which is at risk. To do nothing could result in enforcement action being taken by the statutory bodies involved, but would certainly result in substantial further deterioration in the near future resulting in a health and safety risk that would have to be remedied by the City Council. This would therefore result in a greater liability for the structure and would have to be repaired at a greater cost to the authority and with potentially no grant assistance, as the existing offers would lapse. As a consequence there would also be a considerable loss of reputation and loss of confidence by potential future funders for the site.

**Phase the West Front repairs - REJECTED** as this is not possible due to the grant conditions and the need to scaffold at a high level to complete the task. It is also unnecessary as the service has secured sufficient funds to deliver the whole West Front project, making it more cost effective.

**Background Papers:**

None.

**Published Works:**

Newstead Abbey Condition Surveys by Ingram Consultants 2002 and Purcell in 2014, further structural surveys (including high level surveys) completed in 2016 by Morton Partnership and Purcell.

Historic England report - 28 June 2018.

<b>Affected Wards:</b>	Citywide
<b>Colleague / Councillor Interests:</b>	None.
<b>Consultations:</b>	<p>Date: 15/01/2015</p> <p>Other: The Newstead Abbey Partnership (NAP), World Monument Fund, Arts Council England, Gedling Borough Council</p> <p>NAP, a friends group, formalised to fund raise specifically for the West Front repairs. Nottingham City Council are delivering ongoing consultation with this group and attend regular committee meetings as an advisory role. NAP have achieved raising funds for the West Front Project from a grant awarded by the Paul Mellon Foundation through the World Monument Fund. Arts Council England have been consulted with during the development of the Service's National Portfolio Organisation Business Plan 2018-2022. Gedling Borough Council support the aims of the restoration and the promotion of the site as part of the local tourist economy.</p>
	Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.
<b>Crime and Disorder Implications:</b>	The Cannon Fort repair work will include working directly with volunteers. We currently run a programme of volunteering that engages over 280 volunteers from a wide range of backgrounds. Previous evaluation of similar museum projects highlights that a key outcome for those more vulnerable volunteers is for them to feel less isolated and more socially confident. The Cannon Fort, due to the nature of its location, suffers from vandalism. The project will work with local communities engaging them in getting involved in the repair work empowering them to feel ownership of the Fort. Once repaired and made more accessible the risk of further defacement will be minimised.
<b>Equality:</b>	EIA not required. Reasons: The project does not relate to changing policies, services and functions.
<b>Relates to Council Property Assets:</b>	Yes
<b>Relates to Building Services:</b>	Yes
<b>Decision Type:</b>	Portfolio Holder
<b>Subject to Call In:</b>	Yes
<b>Call In Expiry date:</b>	10/06/2019
<b>Advice Sought:</b>	Legal, Finance, Procurement, Property, Building Services

**Legal Advice:** This report does not raise any significant legal issues provided the City Council ensures it complies with the grant funding conditions agreed with Historic England and World Monument Fund and undertakes any tender in accordance with the terms of the City Council's Financial Regulations and Contract Procedure Rules.

Advice provided by Andrew James (Team Leader Contracts and Commercial) on 12/04/2019.

**Finance Advice:** Please see separate document for the finance comments.

Advice provided by Maria Balchin (Finance Analyst) on 08/04/2019.

Advice documents: Newstead Abbey West Front & Cannon Fort finance comments.docx

**Procurement Advice:** There are no procurement implications to the funding decisions outlined in (1)-(3). The requirement for the contractor to carry out the works (4) is currently out to tender in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules, and the contract will be awarded following successful completion of that exercise.

Advice provided by Jonathan Whitmarsh (Lead Procurement Officer) on 13/02/2019.

**Property Advice:** This proposal is consistent with Sports and Culture's, Service Asset Management Plan and the Corporate Asset Management Plan, which identify the importance of this Heritage asset.

Acceptance of the funding and completing the works to the West Front, and the development work to gain additional funding for the Cannon front, will remove both these buildings from the Heritage Risk Register allowing them to be open to visitors of the Abbey.

The funding from Historic England will reduce future liabilities for the Council and does not place additional pressure on the Building Maintenance budgets.

Advice provided by Christine Read (Property Business Partner) on 28/02/2019.

**Building Services Advice:** There are no significant concerns with the decision being sought and Building Services support this decision.

It should be noted that the Council are seeking to balance the accountability for buildings sitting with building managers alongside the technical and professional input of the Building Services team and all Building Managers (and Budget Holders) are asked to ensure that the Building Services teams are fully engaged in the design and construction process, in particular where these may involve external consultants/contractors.

This will help ensure that the service and project information from providers is robustly challenged against design, cost and technical content as necessary, and will help offer the Council greater value for money in the services and performance received.

Advice provided by Asaad Raouf (Design Services Manager) on 28/02/2019.

**Signatures**

<b>David Trimble (Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and IT)</b>
<b>SIGNED and Dated: 09/05/2019</b>
<b>Andy Vaughan (Corporate Director Commercial and Operations)</b>
<b>SIGNED and Dated: 08/05/2019</b>