

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IN CHESHIRE

Application for consent in relation to Direction on disposals /acquisitions/ contracts Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. *NB You are advised to refer to the contents of the 2007 Act, the Direction, and the General Consent agreed by the Shadow Council(s)*

Authority applying for the Consent:
Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council

Authority or Authorities from whom consent is sought: (NB if it is a County transaction the consent of BOTH Shadow Councils may be required)
Cheshire East District Council

Transaction in relation to which consent is being sought:

The restoration of Queen's Park, Crewe in conjunction with the Heritage Lottery Fund for bridge and lake works – contractor Wrekin Construction Limited

Total value of transaction.

£1,641,180.00

Background to the application for consent (including further details of the transaction; matters to which the transaction relates; the location affected by the transaction; and the reasons why consent is considered to be required.)

In March 2005 the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) approved a grant of 2.775 million for the restoration of Queen's Park.

On 21st July 2005 CNBC's Board approved the procurement approach, authority to enter into a legal agreement with HLF and a budget for the overall project. The budget was revised by CNBC's full Council in 2008.

Wrekin Construction Ltd have been approved in accordance with CNBC's regulations as to contract as the lowest tender. The budget allocated by CNBC for bridge and lake works is £786,800.

The budget allocated by the HLF for these works is £860,400. Wrekin's tender is therefore within and will be met by an existing budget.

CNBC's contribution equates to less than 50% of the overall cost.

Consent is required as the overall cost is greater than that permitted by the general consent.

Implications if consent were to be refused.

If consent is refused it could jeopardise the overall restoration programme for the park and put the HLF grant at risk. Failure to carry out the works may also place CNBC in breach of the legal agreement with the HLF. Queen's Park was gifted to the authority on trust for the benefit of the inhabitants of Crewe. CNBC therefore has an obligation to restore the park and make it fully accessible to the public as soon as possible.

Implications (if any) on the financial position(s) of Cheshire West and Cheshire and Cheshire East Councils.

The bridge and lake works have an estimated contract length of 32 weeks. They are programmed to commence on 21st July 2008 and targeted competition is therefore end of February 2009 and before vesting day. The new bridges have an estimated design life of 50 + years, however the bridges currently in situ represent a health and safety risk and have a high maintenance cost which will then transfer to the new authority.

Timescale within which consent needs to be given and any particular implications of any delay in providing consent.

It is estimated that work will commence on site on 21st July. Any delay will have a knock on effect on the programmed works. Additionally the tender guarantees prices to June 2008. It is desirable that the works get under way as soon as possible in view of the increasing construction costs, particularly with regard to steel. Delay in the project leaves the authority open to criticism from both the HLF monitor and members of the public.

Signed

Dated

Contact Officer *Allan Leah:*
E mail address: *allan.leah@crewe-nantwich.gov.uk*
Telephone: *01270 537475*

Contact Officer *Rebecca Allen*
E mail address: *Rebecca.allen@crewe-nantwich.gov.uk*
Telephone: *01270 537220*