

Agenda item:

## **Alexandra Park and Palace Board**

**19 November 2013** 

Report Title: Listed Building Consent Transmitter Hall HLF WW1 commemoration project

Report of: Duncan Wilson, CE Alexandra Palace Charitable Trust

## 1. Purpose

1.1 To seek Board approval for rebuilding of the disabled access ramp outside the Transmitter Hall and remodelling of the entrance to take away the security cage, to make the entrance more visually attractive and accessible.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Board approves these relatively modest presentational improvements subject to Listed Building Consent being obtained. HLF will not allow us to start work on our project until we have obtained LBC so we are presenting this as an urgent decision at the special Board meeting on 19 November.
- 2.2 The Statutory Advisory and Consultative Committee's advice is being obtained (by e-mail) and will be presented at the Board meeting

Report Authorised by: **Duncan Wilson, Chief Executive.....** 

Dunca H. Wilm

Contact Officer: Melissa Tettey, Head of Learning and Community Programmes
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## 3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 The refurbishment of Transmitter Hall as a learning space has been the subject of a successful HLF bid for £59k, against a total project cost of £63k (of which refurbishment work is £30k). The balance is budgeted. The refurbishment is to be completed by the end of summer 2014 in time for the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. The Transmitter Hall will then house a small exhibition of relevant images and objects, and will be the place from which our new learning programme is delivered from 2014.
- 3.2 Upgrading the entrance is part of a package of improvements including internal redecoration and relighting.
- 3.3 The entrance ramp does not comply with the latest guidance. The cage which restricts access to the fire escape form the BBC Tower is very intimidating, which has been commented on by teachers using the room.
- 3.4 The security cage will be reduced take it away from the entrance, and re-made to provide a secure perimeter further back.
- 3.5 The new proposals represent a more welcoming solution, without being "overdesigned". Given the budget we have produced them in-house.
- 4. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development (if applicable)
- 4.1 N/A
- 5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
- 5.1 N/A

#### 6 Background

- 6.1. The Board is referred to paragraph 3 above. By way of additional information, please note the following.
- 6.2. We have looked into the question as to whether planning consent for the works is required, and have been advised that it is not.
- 6.3. It has also been identified that we will need Building Regulation consent for the works, and this will be followed up with the Council.
- 6.4. We have also taken advice on the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 implications of the works, and will ensure that the ramp is constructed in such a way so as to comply with the legislation.
- 6.5. The intention is to procure a "design and build" contract within £25k for the ramp and doorway element, which means that we can also handle the tender process in house.
- 6.6. An annotated plan and drawings together with a photograph illustrating the external appearance will be provided at the meeting.

# 7 Legal Implications

7.1 The Council's Head of Legal Services has been consulted in the preparation of this report, and has no comments.

## 8 Financial Implications

8.1 The Council's Chief Financial Officer has been consulted in the preparation of this report, and has no comments to make.

#### 9 Use of Appendices

- 9.1 Drawings of proposed improvements to Transmitter Hall and schedule of works (provided at meeting)
- 9.2 Photographs of Transmitter Hall as is (provided at meeting)