

**Central Dudley Area Committee – 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2007**

**Report of the Chief Executive**

**BIG Lottery Bid – A Million People: Black Country as an Urban Park**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To make the Area Committee aware of the Black Country Big Lottery bid for £50 million. A presentation on the project will be given at the meeting.

The total value of the project, called A Million People: Black Country as an Urban Park, is £110 million. Dudley's element (£48 million) includes enhancing the geological heritage on Wren's Nest National Nature Reserve. Proposals would include new visitor facilities and opening up the underground canals and mines which link the site to Castle Hill.

**Background**

2. Black Country Consortium is acting as lead applicant for a joint bid to BIG Lottery for £50 million on behalf of the 4 Black Country Authorities and Black Country Wildlife Trust.
3. The Black Country bid is one of only six projects nationally to have been short-listed for a single grant of up to £50 million from the Big Lottery Fund Living Landmarks People's Millions programme. It is the only bid from the West Midlands.
4. Final proposals were submitted to Big Lottery on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2007.
5. The projects are presently being assessed and the Big Lottery committee will meet on 15<sup>th</sup> October to decide which projects go through to the Television vote on ITV during the week 3 to 7 December.
6. The £50 million grant will be decided by TV vote. It is therefore important that the general public is mobilised to vote for the Black Country's bid.

**Finance**

7. The financial implications of the Council's participation in the Big Lottery project were included in the Capital Programme Monitoring report approved by the Council on 16 July, 2006. The Council has approved urgent amendments to the Capital Programme associated with the project.

## Law

8. The Council may do anything which achieves the promotion or improvement of the economic, social and environmental well-being of its area under Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000.

The Council may provide recreational facilities for it's area under section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

## Equality Impact

9. The proposals comply with the Council's policies on equality and diversity and this has been reflected in consultation work undertaken with particular consideration for the views of children and young people.

## Recommendation

10. It is recommended that the Committee:-
  - Receives a presentation on the bid proposals.
  - Supports the bid to the Big Lottery Fund.
  - Urges members of the public to support the Black Country's bid, subject to the project being successful in going through to the TV vote later in the year.



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**Andrew Sparke**  
**Chief Executive**

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### **List of Background Papers**

Report to the Council Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2007 – Capital Programme Monitoring.