A £24.4 million water-themed park at the centre of Will Alsop's masterplan to partially flood Bradford city centre has been handed a cash lifeline.

Back in November 2007, the Big Lottery Fund turned down a funding bid from the local authority for the Gillespies-designed city park, throwing the future of the scheme into turmoil.

However, despite the knock back, Bradford Council decided to press on with the project and yesterday agreed to stump up £10 million of its own money in support of the park. It was also confirmed that regional development agency Yorkshire Forward will plough in a further £9.3 million with the rest of the funding expected to come from the Regional Transport Board.

Once complete the park near City Hall will feature the 'largest water feature in any UK city' - known as the mirror pool - and will also create fountains, green spaces and performance spaces.

Gillespies won the Park at the Heart scheme back in November 2006 after Will Alsop's original plans to fill the Bradford 'bowl' were significantly pared back.

Since then the project budget has ballooned from £17 million to £24.4 million.
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