

Officer Non Key Executive Decision

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| Relevant Chief Officer (Decision Maker): | John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services |
| Relevant Cabinet Member (for consultation purposes): | Councillor Hobson, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment |
| Report Author (Officer name and title): | Clare Nolan-Barnes, Head of Coastal and Environmental Protection Investments |
| Implementation Date of Decision: | 6 July 2020 |

APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANTS TO DELIVER STUDIES FOR THE OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE FOR TWO COAST PROTECTION SCHEMES KNOWN AS, LITTLE BISPHAM TO BISPHAM AND THE BISPHAM CAPITAL MAINTENANCE SCHEME

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To agree to the proposal to appoint consultants from the Environment Agency's Consultancy Framework to prepare two studies for the outline business case for the coastal protection schemes known as Little Bispham to Bispham and Bispham Capital Maintenance, which are included in the Blackpool and Fylde Coast Protection Strategy 2012.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To appoint the Environment Agency's framework of consultants to prepare studies for the outline business cases for the coastal protection schemes known as Little Bispham to Bispham and the Bispham Capital Maintenance scheme.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 The Blackpool and Fylde Coast Protection Strategy 2012 provides for the future Capital Projects at both Little Bispham to Bispham and the Bispham Capital Maintenance Scheme, to maintain the standard of protection to properties in those areas of Blackpool. The Environment Agency have provided accelerated funding (subject to approval of bids) to enable Blackpool Council to carry out a study for the outline business cases and establish the options and requirements for coast protection work in this area.

Blackpool Council are in the process of formally applying for the accelerated funding in the Environment Agency's programme of works for 20/21. However to enable consultants to be provided in a timely manner, the Environment Agency have asked that Blackpool Council now need to confirm the use of the Environment Agency's framework of consultants to enable a suitable consultant to start works as soon as funding is formally approved.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

The alternative would be to go to competitive tendering which is difficult at this time of pandemic.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is: "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

5.0 Background Information

5.1 The Blackpool and Fylde Coast Protection Strategy 2012 identified that work would be required to replace the sea defence between Little Bispham and Bispham. The Environment Agency have included £300,000 of accelerated funding in their 2020/21 programme, to allow Blackpool to appoint consultants to provide a study for the outline business case and assess the options for the coast defence requirements in this area. A further £130,000 has been allocated to prepare a similar study for the business case for the scheme known as Bispham Capital Maintenance.

5.2 The Environment Agency have procured a framework of contractors that local authorities can use to assist in the preparation of the study for outline business case. The framework comprises specialist in this type of work.

5.3 Blackpool Council's Procurement Team have been consulted on the use of the Environment Agency's framework.

5.4 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

List of Appendices:

None.

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 Contract formalities with the Environment Agencies Framework Contractor

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 Project Management will be carried out using in house resources

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 There are no equality issues.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 Accelerated funding of £430,000 has been allocated in the Environment Agency's 20/21 programme.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 The risk to the Council will be loss of funding and delay in assessing the requirements for coast protection works between Little Bispham and Bispham and Bispham Capital Maintenance.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 This work will support the core values of the Council

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Consultations with Councillor Hobson

13.0 Decision of Chief Officer

13.1 To appoint consultants from the Environment Agencies Framework to commence the study for the outline business case, subject to formal funding approval.

14.0 Reasons for the Decision of the Chief Officer

14.1 The work has already been identified in the Blackpool and Fylde Coast protection

Strategy 2012 and it has been recognised by the Environment Agency that this area of sea defence is in a poor state of repair.

The study for the outline business case will enable Partners to better understand the options for repairs to this area of sea defence.

Use of the Environment Agencies framework will enable the work to be carried out by specialist contractors