

Officer Non Key Executive Decision

Relevant Chief Officer (Decision Maker):	Alan Cavill, Director of Communications and Regeneration
Relevant Cabinet Member (for consultation purposes):	Councillor Gillian Campbell, Cabinet Member for Tourism and Culture
Report Author (Officer name and title):	Susan Ashworth, Project Manager Blackpool Museum Project
Implementation Date of Decision:	14 October 2020

SHOWTOWN EXHIBITION COST PLAN AND PROCUREMENT FOR NEXT STAGE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To seek approval to proceed with tendering process for main Showtown exhibition contracts.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To provide approval to proceed with tendering process for main Showtown exhibition contracts.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 Casson Mann, the design company working on Showtown with the Blackpool Museum Project (BMP) team, completed RIBA Stage 4 package over the summer. It was signed off on 28 August 2020.

The Cost Manager (Greenways) has undertaken a review of the cost plan to update the previous plan dating from March 2019. The review indicates that the exhibition would be approximately £165,370 over budget (5.25%) - ie £3,623,630 as opposed to the exhibition budget of £3,458,260.

NB both figures above include the inflation allowance for the exhibition which, at Cost Plan RIBA 3, was £306,600 or 8.5% of the budget.

The senior National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) monitor approves, in principle, a request to drawdown the inflation figure. However, full drawdown is not guaranteed at this stage. A reduction in access to the inflation provision would impact on the budget overspend position.

Both the Cost Manager - and our second NLHF Monitor - feel confident that some

budget reduction can be secured during the procurement process – particularly around the AV Software contract. It may not be possible to achieve a reduction of the full £165,370. The BMP team has considered a range of VE options that could be introduced to make further impact if needed.

However, rather than undertaking a VE exercise at this stage the BMP team is seeking authorisation to proceed with procurement to seek reductions through this route first.

The procurement packages have been drafted with ‘in the region of’ budget lines that are marginally under the Cost Manager’s costings. This is an intentional endeavour to test the markets.

Package	£
Main exhibition fit out	1,900,000
AV Software	600,000
AV Hardware	500,000
Manual Interactives	350,000
Other packages	80,000
TOTAL	3,430,000

The total budget, on the main tender packages, is being quoted as £3,430,000 - some £193,630 under the Cost Manager’s figure. It may be an unachievable reduction. However, if it was achievable it would bring the exhibition costs in line with the budget – marginally under budget by £28,260.

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:

None

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is;

- “The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”

5.0 Background Information

5.1 The Council is creating a brand new museum (Showtown) for Blackpool and for the

nation. It will be a fun and interactive Museum about why Blackpool is famous and what it is famous for; a celebration of Blackpool's unique place in the story of British popular culture and entertainment.

Showtown will be based in the former Sands Entertainment Venue on Blackpool Promenade and is part of a larger redevelopment of this major landmark building on Blackpool Promenade, conducted in partnership with a private developer Coolsilk Property & Investments Limited. It will occupy part of the ground floor level and majority of the first floor level. Part of the basement level and roof level is being used for the servicing of Showtown along with riser access through developer occupied spaces.

On completion of the whole project, the space will be a fully operational interactive museum providing an entrance for visitors, visitor shop, exhibition spaces, temporary exhibition gallery, learning space, ancillary visitor facilities along with back of house spaces for the Showtown operational team. The project is split into two phases; these being Base build works and Exhibition Fit Out works. This document relates to progressing with the Exhibition Fit Out works.

5.2 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

List of Appendices:

None

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 None

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 The exhibition design package has been reviewed by BMP's Access Forum and an external Access Consultant – Phil Chambers Consultancy – to ensure that the exhibition meets the needs of the widest possible audience.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 The project has been successful in achieving funding from a variety of sources including National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF), Northern Cultural Regeneration

Fund (NCRF), Coastal Communities Fund (CCF), Lancashire LEP Growth Deal, The Council and fundraising.

The Council have a variety of obligations to comply with relating to funding. The successful contractor will be expected to assist the client team as required throughout the project to meet the requirements of the funders.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 An alternative approach would be to implement VE changes now. This has been considered and rejected as it would slow down the procurement process, extending the project and thus increasing the overall project costs, rendering the VE process pointless. In addition the advice from our NKLH monitors and the specialist cost consultant indicate that there is potential to significantly reduce the gap between the budget and the costs and possibly bridge it entirely

It should be noted that there is risk that the costs returned by the tenderers are above those indicated by the cost consultant. This risk will not be completely eliminated until the procurement process is complete in January 2021. However we have as much cost surety as possible at this stage of the process.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 Casson Mann signed the Council's Supplier Charter prior to contract award.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 N/A

13.0 Decision of Chief Officer

13.1 To provide approval to proceed with tendering process for main Showtown exhibition contracts.

14.0 Reasons for the Decision of the Chief Officer

14.1 This decision enables the BMP team to investigate contractors fit for the task and to seek budget reductions during the procurement process whilst progressing to RIBA Stage 5 – manufacturing and construction.