

Officer Non Key Executive Decision

Relevant Chief Officer (Decision Maker):	Neil Jack, Chief Executive
Relevant Cabinet Member (for consultation purposes):	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of Blackpool Council and Portfolio Holder for Tourism and Culture
Report Author (Officer name and title):	Susan Ashworth, Project Manager Blackpool Museum Project
Implementation Date of Decision:	19 November 2021

SHOWTOWN MUSEUM EXHIBITION FIT OUT

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To provide updated information for renewed approval to enter into contract with the four main contractors for the Showtown exhibition fit out.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1
- i. To approve the Council entering into formal contract with Beck Interiors, Sysco Productions, Squint/Opera and AIVAF Ltd for the exhibition work on the Showtown Museum.
 - ii. To authorise Showtown’s Project Sponsor (Alan Cavill) to oversee a single, follow up, cost check process at or around 1 February 2022. This exercise to be limited to the three contractors where materials form a key part of their costs – ie Beck Interiors, Sysco Productions and AIVAF Ltd – and only to proceed without recourse to the Project Board if the resulting costs remain within the original budget framework.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 The BMP team was given approval to proceed with the procurement of exhibition fit out contractors on 14 October 2020 (ONKD). This procurement process took place at the end of 2020/beginning of 2021. Approvals to appoint the four contractors were received via individual ONKDs as the individual tender packages were completed.

ONKD approval confirmed	Contractor	Exhibition package
19 January 2021	Sysco Productions	AV Hardware
23 February 2021	Squint/Opera	AV Content Creation including Software

9 March 2021	Beck Interiors	Exhibition Fit Out Works – main contractor including setworks, display cases, lighting and management of the nominated subcontractors etc.
16 March 2021	AIVAF Ltd	Manual Interactives

By mid-March 2021 the four key packages for the Showtown exhibition fit out had preferred bidders with fixed price tenders (as above). However, as the project was unable to proceed at this point (due to delays with the signing of the lease on The Sands building), the four contracts were not let.

With the lapse of 7 months, the costings provided by the four preferred bidders were no longer tenable. The Project Board acknowledged the unprecedented recent fluctuations in the costs of certain materials (particularly building materials). On 8 August 2021 the Project Board instructed the BMP team to conduct a cost review process - as undertaken with the base build contract (Conlon Construction Ltd).

The review was concluded in October 2021 and was presented to the Project Board on 9 November 2021. The exhibition fit out costs of the four main packages now stand at £2,982,430. This represents an uplift of £156,261 against the tender prices – ie a rise of almost 6% against the previous tender returns (£2,826,169).

The Project Board acknowledged that the revised costs are still well under the original exhibition budget of £3,400,000 for these packages. They also acknowledged that material costs may remain unpredictable in coming months and that a single, final review of materials costs would be prudent/necessary at or around 1 February 2022. The recommendation for this to be overseen by the Project Sponsor was accepted at the Project Board meeting on 9 November 2021.

The BMP team remains impressed with the professionalism of all four preferred bidders throughout this elongated process. In order to remain within the project programme, the BMP team is keen to move to the next stage in the process – moving into contract with Beck Interiors, Sysco Productions, Squint/Opera and AIVAF Ltd.

- 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 as 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 the majority of the first floor. Part of the basement and roof levels are to be 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 - 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 Relevant elements of the exhibition design package have been reviewed by BMP's Access Forum and an external Access Consultant – Phil Chambers Consultancy – in order 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 has a variety of obligations to comply with, relating to funding. The successful contractors 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 The base build strand of the Showtown project is already well underway. In order to ensure that the project meets the agreed opening date (April 2023), the exhibition fit out phase of the project needs to start progressing in early January 2022. Gaining approval to move into contract with the four preferred bidders is essential for managing the risk of further delays to the opening of Showtown.

10.2 To ensure that the preferred bidders sign contracts with Blackpool Council (particularly those with the highest reliance on the purchase/use of building materials), it has been acknowledged that a single, follow up check on materials costs would be needed around 1 February 2022 is judicious. There may be a further uplift in costs or even, if material continue to fluctuate, potentially a reduction in costs.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 All contracts have signed the Council's Supplier Charter as part of the procurement process and are finalising a specific package of Social Value actions with BMP.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 N/A

13.0 Decision of Chief Officer

13.1 i. To approve the Council entering into formal contract with Beck Interiors, Sysco Productions, Squint/Opera and AIVAF Ltd for the exhibition work on the Showtown Museum.

- ii. To authorise Showtown's Project Sponsor (Alan Cavill) to oversee a single, follow up, cost check process at or around 1 February 2022. This exercise to be limited to the three contractors where materials form a key part of their costs – ie Beck Interiors, Sysco Productions and AIVAF Ltd – and only to proceed (without recourse to the Project Board) if the resulting costs remain within the original budget framework.

14.0 Reasons for the Decision of the Chief Officer

- 14.1 This decision enables the Showtown project to progress with the exhibition fit out phase in order to achieve the museum opening date of April 2023.