

Officer Non Key Executive Decision

Relevant Chief Officer (Decision Maker):	John Blackledge, Director for Community and Regeneration
Relevant Cabinet Member (for consultation purposes):	Councillor Jane Hugo, Cabinet Member for Climate Change
Report Author (Officer name and title):	Clare Nolan-Barnes, Head of Coastal and Environmental Partnerships
Implementation Date of Decision:	6 May 2022

APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANTS TO DELIVER STUDIES FOR THE OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE FOR COAST PROTECTION SCHEME KNOWN AS BLACKPOOL BEACH NOURISHMENT

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 the studies for the outline business case for the Coast protection scheme known as Blackpool Beach Nourishment. The Approved Blackpool Coast Protection Strategy 2013 identified that the beach nourishment would complement and protect the completed defence works carried out between 2005 and 2011.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To appoint the Environment Agency's framework of consultants to prepare a study and the outline business cases for the coast protection schemes known as Blackpool Beach Nourishment.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 The Blackpool Coast Protection Strategy 2013 provides for the future Capital Projects to maintain the standard of protection to properties in Blackpool, specifically for the Beach Nourishment Scheme between Cocker Street Station and South Pier. The Environment Agency have provided funding to enable Blackpool Council to carry out a study for the outline business case and establish the options and requirements for coast protection work known as Blackpool Beach Nourishment.

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 compulsory competitive tendering which is costly and unnecessary as the Environment Agency have already carried out a competitive procurement process.

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 Coast Protection Strategy 2013 identified that beach nourishment would be required to protect the sea defence between Cocker Street Station and South Pier, the Environment Agency have provided £342,000 of funding from their 21/22 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.

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

5.3 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.4 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 Funding of £342,000 has been provided to Blackpool Council from the Environment Agency's 21/22 programme.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 The risk to the Council will be loss of future funding and delay in assessing the requirements for beach nourishment coast protection works.

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 Hugo

13.0 Decision of Chief Officer

13.1 To appoint consultants from the Environment Agency's 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 Coast protection Strategy 2013 and it has been recognised by the Environment Agency that this area of sea defence would benefit from beach nourishment.

The study for the outline business case will enable Partners to better understand the options for beach nourishment to these areas of sea defence.

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

by specialist contractors