

Notice of:	EXECUTIVE
Decision Number:	EX32/2022
Relevant Officer:	John Blackledge Director of Community and Environment
Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Jane Hugo, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment
Date of Meeting	5 September 2022

BLACKPOOL COAST PROTECTION SCHEMES – USE OF ENVIRONMENT AGENCY FRAMEWORK FOR SELECTION OF CONTRACTORS AND DESIGNERS

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To provide the background information to enable the Executive to approve the recommendation to use the Environment Agency’s Collaborative Delivery Framework for the selection of the Designers and Contractors to deliver the Blackpool Coast Protection Schemes.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To approve the use of the Environment Agency’s Collaborative Delivery Framework to select the Designers and Contractors for the Blackpool Coast Protection Schemes between 2022 and 2027 and deliver the Coast Protection schemes.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 The Environment Agency has been through a rigorous procurement process to select Designers and Contractors for their Collaborative Delivery Framework which also allows Local Authorities to utilise the framework for Coast protection and flood risk management schemes.

The Designers and Contractors are specialist in the delivery of Coast Protection Schemes.

The Environment Agency is funding the Coast Protection Schemes and has recommended the use of their frameworks due to the rigorous process of selection and the terms of engagement.

The Council will benefit from early contractor engagement and negate the requirement of lengthy procurement process.

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

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

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 The Council could undertake its own procurement exercise although this would require a significant amount of time and resource.

To not proceed with the coast protection scheme putting in excess of 3600 properties at increased risk of flooding.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is both:

- "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool"
- "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

6.0 Background information

6.1 The Blackpool Coastal Strategy (the strategy) was approved by the Environment Agency in 2012 and details the strategic approach to managing flood and erosion, risk to people, property and other assets in the strategy area over the next 100 years.

The strategy area extends 11km from Kingsway in the North of Blackpool to Squires Gate in the South and is divided into 6 sub-units. In order to achieve the objectives of the strategy a long list of options are included in the strategy that determine which options are viable technically, economically and environmentally.

The strategy also provides an outline programme for implementation of the Capital works to provide the technical, economic and environmentally solutions which is detailed in sub units along the strategy area.

The defences are visually inspected on an annual basis and the maintenance required is determined, however consideration is also given to the condition and the ability for repairs to maintain the integrity of the coast protection.

In respect of Sub cell B1.2 Little Bispham to Bispham and sub cell 1.4, Gynn Square to Cocker Square significant deterioration in the coast protection was detected and Blackpool Council applied for funding to accelerate these Capital works outline and planned in the strategy.

Following the delivery of the Outline business case in line with the Strategy for sub cells B1.2 and B1.4, and in recognition of the urgent need to maintain the integrity of the coast protection Blackpool Council has been allocated £61m for the Coast Protection Schemes in these two sub-areas.

- 6.2 The Council do not have the in- house resources to design and construct the works and therefore need to appoint suitable Designers and Contractors.

The Environment Agency has a Framework of Designers and Contractors known specifically as the Collaborative Delivery Framework, this framework was the result of a rigorous procurement process in the selection of suitable Designers and Contractors for Coast Protection Schemes.

The Environment Agency's Collaborative Delivery Framework is available for Local Authorities to use.

The Environment Agency are promoting the use of the Collaborative delivery Framework for the Blackpool Coast Protection schemes to enable timely delivery of the Coast Protection Schemes and to ensure that the Council has support from the Environment Agency's Framework Team to ensure that the Contracts are delivered in line with the procurement of the Contractors and designers.

6.3 **Legislative Requirement**

The Council is a Coast Protection Authority (CPA) and under the Coast Protection Act 1949 which protects the coast against erosion and encroachment by the sea.

- 6.4 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

- 7.1 None.

8.0 Financial considerations:

- 8.1 Blackpool Council has received a funding allocation of £61m to commence the Little Bispham to Bispham Coast Protections Scheme and the Gynn Square to Cocker Square Coast Protection scheme.

8.2 In addition the Council have received £340,000 to carry out an outline business case for the beach nourishment scheme between North pier and South Pier which if successful would also benefit from the use of the Environment Agency's Collaborative Delivery framework, the current value of this scheme is £12m

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 Use of the Environment Agency's Framework provides a compliant procurement route.

9.2 All Contracts to be entered into would be subject to formal legal negotiations/formalities.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 Risk registers will be completed for all Coast protection schemes. This will include lessons learnt from any previous Coast Protection Schemes.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 An equality impact report will be prepared for all Coast Protection schemes

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 The Coast Protection schemes will undertake all sustainability, climate change impact an environmental considerations.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 Consultation on the Little Bispham to Bispham and Gynn Square to Cocker Square projects took place during the preparation of the Outline Business Case and will continue during both pre and post contract activities.

13.2 All future coast protection schemes will also be subject to similar consultation at critical stages of the scheme

13.3 A Project Board has been established which will be chaired by the Director of Community and Environment.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

15.0 Key decision information:

- 15.1 Is this a key decision? Yes
- 15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number: 15/2022
- 15.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No
- 15.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

16.0 Call-in information:

- 16.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No
- 16.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

17.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):

Date informed: 25 August 2022 Date approved:

18.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):

18.1 None.

19.0 Summary of Discussion:

19.1 Mr Alan Cavill, Director of Communications and Regeneration, introduced the item in the absence of Mr John Blackledge, Director for Community and Environmental Services. Mr Cavill highlighted the success of the Council in receiving Environment Agency funding to protect 3,600 properties from increased use of flooding. The use of the Environment Agency framework would allow the Council to ensure that the designers and contractors would be specialists in the delivery of Coast Protection Schemes. The Council would also benefit from early contractor engagement.

In response to queries from members, Mr Cavill emphasised that the Council would still consider social value when appointing a contractor but the use of the framework would ensure that the appointed designers and contractors had suitable experience in the required specialist areas.

20.0 Executive decision:

20.1 The Executive agreed the recommendation as outlined above namely:

To approve the use of the Environment Agency's Collaborative Delivery Framework to select the Designers and Contractors for the Blackpool Coast Protection Schemes between 2022 and 2027 and deliver the Coast Protection schemes.

21.0 Date of Decision:

21.1 5 September 2022

22.0 Reason(s) for decision:

22.1 The Environment Agency has been through a rigorous procurement process to select Designers and Contractors for their Collaborative Delivery Framework which also allows Local Authorities to utilise the framework for Coast protection and flood risk management schemes.

The Designers and Contractors are specialists in the delivery of Coast Protection Schemes.

The Environment Agency is funding the Coast Protection Schemes and has recommended the use of their frameworks due to the rigorous process of selection and the terms of engagement.

The Council will benefit from early contractor engagement and negate the requirement of lengthy procurement process.

23.0 Date Decision published:

23.1 6 September 2022

24.0 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

24.1 The Executive noted that the Council could undertake its own procurement exercise but considered that this would require a disproportionate amount of time and resource.

The Executive also noted that it could choose not proceed with the coast protection scheme but that this would put in excess of 3,600 properties at increased risk of flooding.

25.0 Executive Members in attendance:

25.1 Councillor L Williams, in the Chair

Councillors Brookes, Campbell, Farrell, Hobson, Hugo, Smith and Taylor

26.0 Call-in:

26.1

27.0 Notes:

27.1 The following non-Executive member was in attendance: Councillor Hunter