

<b>Notice of:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE</b>
<b>Decision Number:</b>	EX26/2023
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	John Blackledge Director of Community and Environmental Services
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Jane Hugo, Cabinet Member for Climate Change
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	10 July 2023

## **BLACKPOOL COASTAL PROTECTION SCHEMES**

### **1.0 Purpose of the report:**

1.1 Members will recall that Authority was provided at its meeting on the 5 September 2022 to use the Environment Agency’s Collaborative Delivery Framework for the selection of designers and contractors to deliver the Council’s Coast protection schemes. This report provides the background information to enable the Executive to approve the recommendation to continue to use the Environment Agency’s Collaborative Delivery Framework where appropriate, however also provide authority to use alternative approved frameworks due to the increased size and volume of the Council’s Coastal Protections Schemes. Use of these frameworks may now involve competitive tendering again ensuring the Council achieves value for money.

### **2.0 Recommendation(s):**

2.1 To agree to the continued use of the Environment Agency’s Collaborative Delivery Framework where appropriate, and authority to use alternative coast protection framework contractors if required for the delivery of the Blackpool Coastal Protection Schemes between 2022 and 2027.

### **3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):**

3.1 Coast Protection designers and Contracting organisations have been through a rigorous procurement process to be selected as Designers and Contractors for their Framework Contracts to deliver Coast Protection and flood risk management schemes.

The Head of Procurement approves the use of framework Designers and Contractors for Coast protection and flood risk management schemes as an appropriate delivery mechanism of Blackpool’s coast protection schemes.

The designers and contractors on the frameworks are specialist in the delivery of Coast Protection Schemes.

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 To commence a procurement exercise to have an Authority Framework that would be both costly and timely. It also would offer no guarantees of finding a contractor with the required specialist knowledge and experience of coast protection schemes.

To not proceed with the coast protection scheme putting 8,000 local residents at increased risk of flooding.

#### **5.0 Council priority:**

5.1 The relevant Council priority is: "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience".

#### **6.0 Background information**

6.1 Following the delivery of the outline business case in line with the Blackpool Coastal Strategy, Blackpool Council has been allocated £61m, which is significantly more than was originally profiled for the Coast Protection Schemes between Little Bispham and Bispham and Gynn Square to Cocker Square.

6.2 Blackpool Council has also now been awarded additional grant funding of £57m for coast protection works in the central area of Blackpool, the costs of this scheme was originally profiled at £12m in the Blackpool Coastal Strategy, therefore significantly increased.

6.3 In light of the scale and size of the coastal defence schemes to be delivered, it is appropriate for the Council to have flexibility in terms of the use of all appropriate delivery frameworks available in order to ensure value for money.

#### **6.4 Legislative Requirement**

6.5 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.

6.6 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 grant funding of £61m to commence the Little Bispham to Bispham Coast Protection Scheme and the Gynn Square to Cocker Square Coast Protection Scheme and grant funding of £57m to commence the Blackpool Central Area Beach Nourishment Scheme.

8.2 Blackpool Council and the Environment Agency who is funding the schemes are aware that material costs in particular for these schemes have potential for price increases due to inflation.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 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 Analysis 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 and Blackpool Beach Nourishment scheme took place during the preparation of the Outline Business Case and will continue during both pre and post contract activities.

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

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: 8/2023

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: 30 June 2023                      Date approved:

**18.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):**

18.1 None

**19.0 Summary of Discussion:**

19.1 Mr John Blackledge, Director for Community and Environmental Services, presented the report to the Executive. In doing so Mr Blackledge highlighted the increased size and volume of the Council's Coastal Protections Schemes. Mr Blackledge emphasised the need to identify suitable frameworks for contractors to ensure that any appointments for future works had the suitable experience and skills to deliver the project requirements.

**20.0 Executive decision:**

20.1 The Executive agreed the recommendation as outlined above namely:

To agree to the continued use of the Environment Agency's Collaborative Delivery Framework where appropriate, and authority to use alternative coast protection framework contractors if required for the delivery of the Blackpool Coastal Protection Schemes between 2022 and 2027.

**21.0 Date of Decision:**

21.1 10 July 2023

**22.0 Reason(s) for decision:**

22.1 Coast Protection designers and Contracting organisations have been through a rigorous procurement process to be selected as Designers and Contractors for their Framework Contracts to deliver Coast Protection and flood risk management schemes.

The Head of Procurement has approved the use of framework Designers and Contractors for Coast protection and flood risk management schemes as an appropriate delivery mechanism of Blackpool's coast protection schemes.

The designers and contractors on the frameworks are specialists in the delivery of Coast Protection Schemes.

**23.0 Date Decision published:**

23.1 11 July 2023

**24.0 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**

24.1 The Executive noted the two alternatives options listed at 4.1 namely: To commence a procurement exercise to have an Authority Framework that would be both costly and timely and would offer no guarantees of finding a contractor with the required specialist knowledge and experience of coast protection schemes or to not proceed with the coast protection scheme putting 8,000 local residents at increased risk of flooding. The Executive considered that neither of these options were reasonable or desirable.

**25.0 Executive Members in attendance:**

25.1 Councillor Williams, in the Chair

Councillors Benson, N Brookes, Burdess, Farrell, Hugo, M Smith and Taylor

**26.0 Call-in:**

26.1

**27.0 Notes:**

27.1 The Following Non-Executive Members were in attendance: Councillors Hunter, Marshall and Webb.