

Agenda Item 21

Cabinet

2 May 2012

12/1224



Exemption from Standing Orders – Seaton Jurassic Coast Discovery Centre

Exempt Information

Para 3 Schedule 12A information relating to the finance or business affairs of any particular person

Summary

Following a resolution made by Cabinet in July 2011 the marketing of the Visitor Centre to seek a suitable operator has now taken place. Through a short listing process and interview stages an operator that meets the criteria of both funding partners, the Council and Devon County Council, has been found; the Devon Wildlife Trust.

This report seeks Cabinet approval for an Exemption from Standing Orders in order that the preferred operator can use their design consultancy company, Devon Wildlife Enterprises. DWE would be required for the design and installation of the interpretation display material for the interior of the Discovery Centre. In addition an Exemption from Standing Orders is required for the extension of services of Natural Histories as lead consultant on behalf of the Council.

Recommendation

- 1. To approve an Exemption from Standing Orders to enable the extension of Natural Histories appointment to lead the design development and external funding bid of the Discovery Centre.**
- 2. To approve an Exemption Standing Orders to enable the appointment of Devon Wildlife Enterprise to develop the interpretative designs and installations within the Discovery Centre.**

a) Reasons for Recommendation

The reasons for the recommendations are to assist the facilitation of a project that will enhance the area, and support the Seaton Regeneration agenda in general and ambitions for the delivery of a Discovery Centre in particular. The Seaton Regeneration Programme Board is an enthusiastic supporter of the Seaton Jurassic Coast Discovery Centre.

b) Alternative Options

To employ an alternative consultant after tendering for the work required and to possibly lose Devon Wildlife Trust as the preferred operator for the Centre.

c) Risk Considerations

There are no significant risk issues to approving the Exemption to Standing Orders.

d) Policy and Budgetary Considerations

Against the capital budget for this project to date £63,000 has already been incurred. It is estimated that the fee for Natural Histories will not exceed £8,000 and this can be funded from the remainder of separate monies received for pre-development costs.

e) Date for Review of Decision

N/A

1 Main Body of the Report

- 1.1 Natural Histories have been involved in the project since October 2010 when they successfully tendered for the role of design and funding consultant. Doug Hulyer of Natural Histories has shown great enthusiasm and commitment throughout the original contract period and the Estates & Economics department now require Mr Hulyer to continue in leading the design process and the Heritage Lottery Bid for the successful delivery of the Discovery Centre.
 - 1.2 The Council has entered into an agreement with the Devon Wildlife Trust to enable the delivery of the Centre with them as Operators. The DWT has a subsidiary, namely Devon Wildlife Enterprises that specialises in nature based interpretation panel design. As part of the negotiations between the DWT and the Council, the DWT has requested that DWE be used to design the interpretation elements of the Centre.
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Legal Implications

The full terms of the contracts to be approved by the legal department. No further comments of a legal nature arise as a result of the report

Financial Implications

The financial implications are included in the report. Further reference to the financing of the scheme was reported to Cabinet on 4 April 2012.

Consultation on Reports to the Executive

N/A

Background Papers

None

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