

Agenda Item 23

Cabinet

28 November 2012

12/1232



Exemption to Standing Orders – Mamhead and Pierhead Masterplan Project

Exempt Information

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

Summary

At its meeting of 5 September, Cabinet considered a report on Mamhead Slipway detailing reasons for the recent closure of the slipway. A commitment was made to commence the Mamhead and Pierhead Masterplan project which would include a scheme for a new enhanced deep water slipway provision.

Following the recent advertisement of two fixed term Development Surveyor posts, it was hoped that the necessary staff resources would be available to oversee this project. Unfortunately, recruitment has not yet been possible.

Time is of the essence in relation to this project as the opportunity to acquire the necessary land to deliver a solution is limited. The closure of the existing slipway has left the District without a deepwater slipway.

This report seeks Cabinet approval for an Exemption from Standing Orders in order that a Project Manager can be appointed immediately to enable momentum to be gained on the delivery of the project.

Recommendation

- 1. To approve an Exemption from Standing Orders to enable the appointment of a consultant to manage the Mamhead & Pierhead Masterplan Project without seeking three quotations, for the reasons set out in the report.**

a) Reasons for Recommendation

The reason for the recommendation is to assist the facilitation of a project that seeks to deliver a fit for purpose deepwater slipway for East Devon and enhance the immediate surroundings. The Exmouth Regeneration Programme Board is an enthusiastic supporter of the Council's ambition to improve public access to the water.

b) Alternative Options

To employ an alternative consultant after tendering the work and risk delaying the commencement of the project further.

c) Risk Considerations

There are no significant risks to approving the request for an exemption to standing orders.

d) Policy and Budgetary Considerations

The Council committed a pre-development project budget of up to £70,000 at the meeting of Cabinet on 5 September 2012.

e) Date for Review of Decision

A progress report on this project will be available for consideration in the spring.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 At its meeting of 5 September, Cabinet considered a report on Mamhead Slipway detailing reasons for the recent closure of the slipway. A commitment was made to commence the Mamhead and Pierhead Masterplan project which would include a scheme for a new enhanced deep water slipway provision.
- 1.2 Following the recent advertisement of two fixed term development surveyor posts, it was hoped that the staff resource would be available to oversee the project. Unfortunately, recruitment has not been possible.
- 1.3 Time is of the essence in relation to this project as the opportunity to acquire the necessary land to deliver a solution is limited. The closure of the existing slipway has left the District without a deepwater slipway.

2.0 Project Management

- 2.1 This report seeks Cabinet approval for an Exemption from Standing Orders in order that a Project Manager can be appointed immediately to enable momentum to be gained on the delivery of the project. A very experienced candidate has been identified. The former Head of Economy and Enterprise at Devon County Council, Dr Ian Harrison has expressed his willingness to assist the Council in moving the Mamhead Slipway project forward.
- 2.2 Dr Harrison is a Chartered Civil Engineer who recently retired from the County Council after 38 years experience of Highways, Transport, Planning and Environment services with large local authorities. During his time at Devon County Council, which ended in May 2012, Ian gained significant experience of dealing with local issues in Exmouth, and in particular in liaising with the various tiers of local government and other statutory bodies.
- 2.3 He is willing to commit to the project by working an average of one day per week to this project for the foreseeable future but recognises that a more intensive involvement might be needed for the inception period.
- 2.4 It is proposed that Dr Harrison's involvement in managing the project is reviewed after 3 months (March 2013). The project management costs for this initial period are likely to be in the order of £4,500. Dr Harrison is self employed, and during this period the terms of his engagement would be to work from office accommodation provided by the Council at the Knowle, thereby facilitating ease of contact with relevant officer and Member stakeholders in the project. Dr Harrison carries both

professional indemnity and public liability insurance.

3.0 The Brief

3.1 The outline brief for the management of the Mamhead & Pierhead project is as set out below:-

- Project plan and manage the first phase of developing the holistic scheme for Mamhead and Pierhead
- Manage the budget and prepare appropriate update reports for the Exmouth Regeneration Executive
- Manage the appointment of any external consultants required to deliver the project
- Manage relevant consultants and Council staff making up part of your project team
- Act as the first point of contact for all interested parties in the Mamhead/Pierhead area (in particular the Slipway Users Group and Members)
- Liaise with contractors to ensure that they have what they need, are undertaking the work set for them, receive reports and make relevant information available to the Regeneration Executive
- Ensure stakeholders know what is going on and ensure regular two-way communication channels and activities (We have communications advisors on board and they are responsible for writing press releases, keeping the social media and website up to date and assisting with presentations and stakeholder workshops)
- Commission studies relevant to the delivery of the project including reports required for planning and fund-raising purposes
- Negotiate an agreed position with relevant landowners (including advising the Council's 106 officer in relation to nearby development)

3.2 The aim of the first phase of the project will be to work up a scheme for the area, in consultation with the Slipway Users Group, other community stakeholders and Members, which addresses some if not all of the aspirations set out in the Town and Seafront Masterplan and includes detailed plans for a new slipway.

3.3 This will include the acquisition of the documents required to be submitted with a planning application for the scheme.

Legal Implications

Contract Standing Orders require three written quotations for this work. They also require that professional indemnity insurance should be provided. Members may consider only one written quotation if they consider that the skills and value for money offered justify this.

Financial Implications

As detailed in the report a £70k budget has been set that will presumably cover these costs

Consultation on Reports to the Executive

The issues raised in this report have been considered by the Exmouth Regeneration Project Executive and at an Asset Management Forum Briefing.

Background Papers

- Exmouth Town & Seafront Masterplan

- Mamhead Slipway Closure & future options: Cabinet 5 September 2012

Donna Best
Principal Estates Surveyor

Cabinet
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