

INFORMATION NOTE



RESTORATION OF FAIRHAVEN LAKE AND GARDENS/FYLDE HEADLANDS PROJECT APPRAISAL REPORT

Background

The restoration of Fairhaven Lake and Gardens and the replacement sea defences at Fairhaven Lake and Church Scar is one of the largest infrastructure projects facing the Council over the next few years. The projects are inextricably linked as the replacement sea defence forms the outer promenade of Fairhaven Lake and Church Scar.

An overall landscape master plan has been developed for the area which can be broadly split into 3 project areas –

- Replacement hard sea defences Fairhaven Lake and Church Scar
- Public realm elements as part of the Replacement Sea Defences
- Restoration of Fairhaven Lake's Buildings, structures, landscapes and facilities.

Funding for these projects is complex and will require the financial support of the Council and various funding bodies to achieve the desired outcomes. A proposed funding strategy and options is detailed below.

The Environment Agency have recently confirmed that funding for the replacement sea defences at Church Scar and Fairhaven has been identified within their indicative programme for the North West 2016-2019.

Restoration of Fairhaven Lake and Gardens

The Council applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) under the Parks for People initiative for a 1st round development grant of £236,834 to work up detailed proposals, which was to form the basis of a future larger 2nd round application.

The bid which was presented to the Trustees on 23rd June 2015, was unfortunately unsuccessful. Demand for Heritage Lottery Funding is high with most bidding rounds being well oversubscribed. The Council's application was recognised as being a good one, which achieved the outcomes of the programme however, it was rejected due to insufficient funds.

The board agreed that the site was of high heritage significance and that there was the potential for an interesting project. However, whilst the project did qualify for support it was seen as underdeveloped in places compared to other projects.

- The application did not provide strong evidence that the activity proposals had been informed by thorough consultation with a wide range of audiences which impacted on the range of activities proposed.

- Project management proposals were felt to be underdeveloped in terms of identifying roles and responsibilities for specific work packages and the role of project manager 1 day per week was felt to be under resourced.

The Chairman of the Tourism and Leisure Committee and the Head of Leisure and Culture had a meeting with the Heritage Lottery Fund on the 27th August 2015 to ascertain if it was worth the Council reapplying for funding assistance. The proposed way forward is identified below.

Fairhaven and Church Scar Coastal Defence Scheme, Project Appraisal Report (PAR)

The Strategic Appraisal Report for the Fylde Shoreline Strategy was approved by the Environment Agency's large project review group (LPRG) in January 2014. This included the replacement of sea defences at Fairhaven and Church Scar. Following this approval further funding was released by the Environment Agency (EA). Cabinet approved the commissioning of the Fylde Headland Study Project Appraisal Report (PAR) in the sum of £175k, fully funded from EA resources. This report has now been completed and was submitted for approval by the LPRG on the 6th August 2015. There was positive, supportive feedback for the business case. There are a small number of key issues to resolve which are being addressed. Once the PAR is approved, further funding from DEFRA is then required to complete the next stage. This is the detailed customer led design of the new sea walls and involves gaining the necessary approvals for the work to progress, which include planning permission, marine management organisation licence, environmental impact assessment and appropriate assessment with regards to the potential to disturb overwintering birds during construction. Once these approvals are obtained it will unlock funding for both Fairhaven Lake and Church Scar sea defence construction schemes.

The overall cost of the Fairhaven and Church Scar sea walls are currently estimated to be £19.829m based upon the Project Appraisal Report (PAR), spanning the years 2015/16 to 2018/19. This is a higher cost estimate for the schemes than that of £16.5m which is currently contained within the Council's approved Capital Programme as further funding allocations from DEFRA in respect of the schemes are anticipated. Once these are confirmed, subject to consideration of the PAR, the Council's Capital Programme will be updated accordingly. FBC's contribution of £400k towards sea wall development works is fully funded from the Capital Investment Reserve.

Subject the above approvals being in place works are proposed to start on site in the summer of 2016.

Public Realm

The main objective of the replacement sea defence scheme is flood risk management to protect properties from coastal erosion and flood providing a long-term 100 year plan for the management of the shoreline to safeguard Lytham and Fairhaven.

The replacement sea defence schemes implemented across the Fylde Coast had additional objectives to create –

- New and improved visitor / cultural facilities and attractions; and
- Environmental enhancement scheme (the provision of high quality public realm)

It is acknowledged that the landscape setting of other recent coastal defence schemes across the Fylde Peninsula are different to that at Fairhaven and so therefore a different treatment is required however, the council has the opportunity to create new and improved visitor /cultural attractions and facilities and a high quality public realm as part of the replacement hard sea defence project.

Projects in Blackpool and Wyre have delivered high quality public realm schemes with the introduction of seating, amenity lighting, shelters, buildings and public art. This has been achieved through the creation of a partnership approach with the various funding bodies available at the time. However the main funding partner in these projects has been the North West Development Agency which was abolished on 31 March 2012.

Restoration of Fairhaven Lake

The Heritage lottery fund have acknowledged the high heritage significance of Fairhaven lake and gardens and the potential for an interesting and worthwhile project however, they have identified a number of areas that could be improved. The majority of research and development work has already been undertaken and therefore it is proposed that the council undertake additional work to address the following issues in order to resubmit the project:

- Consultation engagement with the wider audience needs to be undertaken for example young people and families and relate their requirements to the project priorities.
- A friends group need to re-establish which is active and fully committed to the project.
- Project management needs to be firmed up into discrete packages.
- The proposed project manager proposed should be adequately resourced during the development phase.
- Further condition reports are required for the lake, buildings and landscape.

The restoration of Fairhaven Lake's buildings, structures, landscape and facilities can only be achieved by adopting a partnership approach with the appropriate funding bodies and organisations.

Note

Certain works to the lake are essential and must be carried out at the same time as the hard sea defences are replaced at Fairhaven Lake. These include the lake inlets and outlets, the buildup of silt lake edge treatment and water quality issues. Currently there is no identified source of funding for these works. It is proposed that a capital bid will be developed in respect of these works which will be presented for consideration, alongside other capital bids, as part of the budget-setting process for 2016/17.

Funding Strategy

The following tables illustrate current bidding activity along with potential sources of funding.

Sea Defences

Funding Body	Funds potentially available	Comments	Time Frame
DEFRA	£19.429M	The current notified sum within Fylde Council capital programme is £16.5m and is subject to review following consideration of the PAR.	2016/19

Fylde Council	£400K	Contained within the agreed Fylde capital programme	2016/17
United Utilities	?	Requests have been made for financial assistance	?
Arts Council	£15-£100k	Grants for Arts programme. Look at Arts opportunities on the new sea defences	2016/17

Restoration of Fairhaven Lake & Gardens

Funding Body	Funds potentially available	Comments	Time Frame
Fylde Council	£20K in the agreed 2015/16 Capital programme. £400k was sought as part of the capital programme but has not been approved at this stage. To date £221k has been earmarked for this scheme from the Funding Volatility Reserve.	Originally to match fund development grant.	Capital programme agreed each year at Budget Council in March
Heritage Lottery Fund	Round One £236,962 Round Two £1,950,500	Rework the Councils Round 1 bid	Submit February 2016
Sport England	£150K	Inspired Facilities Grant to create classroom and changing facilities	Bid Submitted January 2016
Section 106 & CIL	?	As development opportunities emerge	?
Coastal Community Fund	?	Government announced £90m new funding until 2020/21	Available from 2017/18
European Regional Development Fund European Pipeline Structure Fund	£650k Projects over £1 million	Work with the LEP to secure funding support	?

Public Realm

Funding Body	Funds available	Comments	Time Frame
Fylde Council	?	Possible bid into the capital programme	Agreed each year at Budget Council in March
Lancashire County Council Environmental Projects Team	?	Possible access to LCC capital programme	To link in with replacement sea defences
Lancashire County Council Highway Team	?	Work in partnership on highway improvements on the access to Fairhaven Lake	?
Section 106 & CIL	?	As development opportunities emerge	?

FURTHER INFORMATION

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