

INFORMATION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	TOURISM AND LEISURE COMMITTEE	9 JANUARY 2020	14
FAIRHAVEN HERITAGE LOTTERY PROJECT UPDATE			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

Main Works Contract (Heritage Buildings and Landscapes)

1. Tender submissions for the main works contract were received on 13th September 2019 from the 6 contractors on the tender shortlist. The contractors' prices were all significantly above the allotted budget for the scheme (by an average of circa £1.2M) and therefore the tender process was required to be voided in line with procurement regulations.
2. The main reason for the inflated tender prices was due to over-engineering of the RIBA Stage 4 Technical Design, however as the design information was significantly late in coordination and production by the Lead Consultant, the necessary cost scrutiny was unable to be undertaken before it was released to the market. The inflated tender prices were over budget across the entirety of the project design packages; including the architectural package, mechanical and electrical package, structural engineering package and landscape package. The Lead Consultant has subsequently withdrawn from the project.
3. Once it was evident that the tender process was required to be voided, the project board and other key stakeholders were engaged to revise the delivery programme. The overwhelming consultation favoured a delay to any physical construction works to the buildings and landscape until the end of the summer season 2020 to minimise disruption to the park activities and businesses, with physical works commencing in September 2020. The programme has therefore been rescheduled and a high-level summary of the programme is described below:

Activity	Date(s)
Re-procurement and re-structure of professional team	November - December 2019
Complete RIBA Stage 4 Design and Pre-Tender Estimate	January 2020 – May 2020
Tender Period	June 2020 – July 2020
Construction Works	September 2020 – May 2021

4. As described above, the Lead Consultant has withdrawn from the project and officers are currently in the process of procuring a new professional team of specialist consultants required for the remainder of the project. Any issues around the withdrawal of the former lead consultant and the quality of their

work will be pursued separately.

5. The new consultancy team will be led directly by the Project Officer to ensure the council has a greater level of control over the performance of the consultancy team and their ability to produce design information on time and to the allocated budget.

Project Income & Underwriting Update

6. The project team in conjunction with the Friends of Fairhaven Lake have secured a grant of £30,000 from the Lancashire Environmental Fund (LEF). The Council agreed to underwrite £343,000 of unsecured match funding in July 2018 to strengthen the NLHF Round 2 capital bid. This grant is one of 4 external grants that were underwritten by the council.
7. In addition to the above, during the last reporting period the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) have confirmed changes to their capital grant programme criteria. This is also one of the 4 external grants that were originally underwritten by the council.
8. The LTA have informed the Council that they are no longer awarding capital grants for grassroots tennis improvements but are instead offering interest-free loans in their place. Proposed changes to the LTA grant programme were announced in August 2018 (at the time of the NLHF Round 2 application) but not confirmed until late September 2019. The unsecured match funding amount of £51,102 was originally underwritten by the Council with the expectation that the LTA would consider providing a capital grant in a similar sum. However, that is no longer the case. As the LTA loans would be accompanied by restrictive criteria for the use of those funds, some of which may not be consistent with the general development plans for the site, and would also incur administrative and legal burdens, it is not considered practical to the overall ambitions for the site to accept a loan on the terms offered. Consequently, this is a sum that the Council will now be required to meet from the amount previously agreed as external grant underwriting by Fylde Council for the development.
9. Council officers have now secured £130,000 of the original £343,000 underwriting amount. The table below contains the latest position with regards to the capital underwriting associated with the Fairhaven NLHF scheme.

Funding Source	Original Amount	Description of Funding	Actual Amount Received	Notes
Sport England Community Asset Fund	£131,791	Match funding for the Watersports Centre and Community Facility.	£100,000	Sport England capped grant at £100,000
Coastal Community Fund (CCF)	£130,000	Match funding for the lake desilting package.	£0	CCF application was unsuccessful
Lawn Tennis Association	£51,106	Tennis improvements	£0	Funding criteria has been revised (see 9. above) and application will not be progressed in line with Finance recommendation.
Lancashire Environmental Fund	£30,000	Adventure Play Area	£30,000	Application successful
Sub Total	£342,897		£130,000	

Adventure Play Area

10. Decision item number x on the committee agenda details the procurement and contract award of the Adventure Play Area project, which is part of the wider Heritage Lottery project.

Adventure Golf

11. Tender documents were prepared and issued to the market via the Chest Procurement Portal on 29th November 2019. The current return date for the tender submissions is 10th January 2020. A design and build contractor will be procured by the end of January 2020 to deliver the adventure golf physical works by 3rd July 2020. The facility will be operational by the start of the summer public holidays in 2020. This project is not part of the wider Heritage project and a Decision Item report will be presented at a future Tourism & Leisure Committee detailing the project and the results of the tender evaluation.

Activity and Events Programme

12. The first year of the NLHF Activity and Events Programme is now complete and the second year of Activity and Events has been programmed and is currently about to be marketed via social media and the Corporate communication channels.
13. Some of the key statistics associated with Activity and Events i.e. the 'People' side of the project are as follows:
- 154,818 visitors recorded up until the end of November 2019 (this represents a slight drop of 5.6% compared to the same time period in 2018);
 - Social media figures for the Fairhaven project – 546 Twitter followers and 630 Facebook followers;
 - 1759 Volunteer hours recorded at an in-kind contribution value of £24,382;
 - 41 events held with 8353 participants recorded;
 - Of the 87 Activity feedback surveys that have been completed; 97% rated the activity good or above, 99% would take part again and 100% of the activities 'met expectations'.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Charlie Richards, Fairhaven Project Officer

WHY IS THIS INFORMATION BEING GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE?

A request was made at the Tourism & Leisure Committee held on the 7th September 2017 for a regular information item to be presented to the Committee.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact – Charlie Richards, Fairhaven Project Officer, 01253 658472, charlie.richards@fylde.gov.uk

Contact – Mark Wilde, Head of Tourism, Leisure and Cultural Services, 01253 658475, mark.wilde@fylde.gov.uk