

## DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	PLANNING COMMITTEE	14 NOVEMBER 2018	5

### COASTAL REVIVAL FUND BID : ST ANNES PIER

#### PUBLIC ITEM

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

#### SUMMARY

In the Spring of this year, the Department of Housing, Communities and Local Government extended an invitation for local authorities or partnerships to submit bids for up to £50,000 from the Coastal Revival Fund. This would offer the opportunity to bid for grant aid towards identified schemes for the restoration of *heritage features or artefacts* that would assist in the regeneration or enhancement of seaside resort towns.

The Regeneration Team had been in discussion with the St. Annes Pier Company about potential enhancements to the Pier, particularly in the context of ensuring its long term future. Through these discussions, the opportunity was taken to put forward a bid for grant aid for both necessary works and enhancement opportunities to match the financial commitments of the Company.

The Bid was duly submitted in early July and a decision is expected at the end of October, which would identify the winners of this national competition. The bid value is £48,100.

The fund is highly competitive but if successful, the award would need to be administered by an 'accountable body' to ensure its correct appropriation. This Council would be the appropriate 'authority'.

The Government Department has requested that confirmation be given that this Council would act as the accountable body should the bid be successful.

Committee is requested, therefore, to agree to receive the funding and act as the accountable body for the administration of the grant should the bid be successful. In doing so it would recommend that the Councils Finance and Democracy Committee accept the funding, thereby resulting in a fully funded addition to the Capital Programme for the financial year 2018/19.

As the accountable body, this would ensure that the grant aid is released in accordance with the proposed spend featured in the bid.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That should the bid be successful, Committee recommend to the Finance & Democracy Committee the approval of a fully funded addition of £48,100 to the Councils 2018/19 Capital Programme towards the restoration of St. Annes Pier to be met from a grant from the Coastal Revival Fund of the same amount.
2. To agree that, subject to approval of the addition to the Capital Programme by the Finance & Democracy Committee as described above, the delivery of the project is to be achieved through the engagement of consultants/contractors and suppliers to deliver the various elements of the project. Should the Council commission any aspect of the works, these be procured in line with the Councils financial regulations, contract rules and procedures.

3. To recommend to the Finance and Democracy Committee the release of funding as appropriate commensurate with the various stages of the implementation of the scheme.
4. That this Council acts as the accountable body for the receiving and management of the grant.

#### SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

None relevant to this particular site

The Council has acted as accountable body in receipt of similar funding including an award made in 2015 under the Coastal Revival Fund for the Lytham Hall Project.

#### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services ( <b>Value for Money</b> )	✓
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council ( <b>Clean and Green</b> )	
Working with all partners ( <b>Vibrant Economy</b> )	✓
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live ( <b>A Great Place to Live</b> )	✓
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit ( <b>A Great Place to Visit</b> )	✓

#### REPORT

1. The Coastal Revival Fund has been a Government initiative for a number of years. The 2018/19 round has a total value of £1m. Bids were invited for grant aid assistance with projects that are advanced and could be delivered in the current financial year. For some time, discussions have been taking place periodically with the Pier Company and its trustees about the future of the Grade II listed structure. To the credit of the Company, a programme of repair and refurbishment has been carried out over a number of years. However, as the structure ages, the demand for continued maintenance increases. Funding for these works is solely generated by tenant concessions and other income e.g. through car park fees.
2. The Council has cooperated with the Pier Trustees on previous occasions, one example being the scheme to enhance the external appearance of the car park, paving and illumination of the entrance pavilion for the hosting of the 2012 Open.
3. The demand for maintenance inevitably increases but also the opportunity for enhancement should be taken. The bid, which was of course endorsed by the Trustees, is effectively a balance between routine but essential maintenance but also the opportunity taken to add to the amenities of the Pier including enhancing its setting and Victorian character.
4. The attached document (Appendix 1) is a copy of the bid that sets out in much more detail the principles of the proposed scheme. It should also be noted that the grant aid bid, if successful, forms only part of the projected capital spend proposed for the Pier over the next few years. From this point of view, the award would essentially be a grant towards a larger programme of investment. The net result would be one of bringing forward necessary maintenance but also achieving a small number of enhancements which otherwise might not be a priority. It was considered, during the formulation of the bid, that the additionality of the enhancements as proposed, would add to the appeal of the bid, over and above one solely relating to 'routine maintenance'.
5. In support of the bid, the Revival Fund requires the local authority to act as the responsible authority for the release of the grant. In doing so, The Council will require evidence of best value through the appropriate procurement processes by the Pier Company or this Council, if it is to commission any of the works e.g. external ground works to the Pier forecourt.

6. If the bid were to be successful, the award would no doubt specify the eligible works for spend, presumably based around the stipulations within the bid. The funding profile and eligible items for spend are contained within the bid document – at Appendix 1.
7. The bid was in effect a joint initiative and the guidance given stipulated that where appropriate it should be supported by the approved Coastal Community Team (CCT) for the locality. In this case the CCT is the St. Annes Enterprise Partnership (STEP) and the bid was fully endorsed by this Team. It was also supported by the Lytham St. Annes Civic Society as it would potentially enhance the Pier as a nationally recognised heritage asset.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	If the bid is successful and the Council agree to act as accountable body, although no Council resources would be required to deliver the project (apart from some officer time which could be allocated from existing resources) it would require an addition to the approved Capital Programme in respect of the project, to be fully-funded by the grant from central government for this purpose.
Legal	None specific apart from ensuring that the funding would be appropriated in accordance with the approved grant.
Community Safety	None relevant
Human Rights and Equalities	The scheme would be beneficial to all sections of the community
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None specific
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None relevant to The Council

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Paul Drinnan	Paul.drinnan@fylde.gov.uk 01253 658434	12 <sup>th</sup> October 2018

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Coastal Revival Fund	17.5.18	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coastal-revival-fund-an-invitation-to-apply-for-funding">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coastal-revival-fund-an-invitation-to-apply-for-funding</a>

Attached documents

Appendix 1: Copy of the Coastal Revival Fund bid.