



Portfolio Holder Report

The portfolio holder will make a decision on this item after seven days have elapsed (including the date of publication).

Report of:	Portfolio Holder	Date of publication
Mark Billington, Service Director People and Places	Councillor Alan Vincent, Resources Portfolio Holder	13 July 2017

Larkholme Grasslands Environmental Scheme

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek approval to develop the Larkholme Grasslands Environmental scheme to detailed design phase using a preferred consultant.

2. Outcomes

- 2.1 Detailed design will be provided for the key structural elements of the scheme which forms an important part of the Rossall Coastal Defence scheme. This will include design of bridges, promenade entrance features, roadside entrance features and carved narrative text and images.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That approval is given to undertake detailed design of the key structural features for the Larkholme Grasslands scheme as part of the Rossall Coast Defence scheme.
- 3.2 That approval is given by the Resources Portfolio Holder for the Head of Engineering Services to enter into an agreement with Broadbent Studios to undertake the detailed design work.
- 3.3 That approval is given by the Resources Portfolio Holder to allow for the appointment of consultants under the exemptions to Contract Procedures contained within the Financial Regulations and Financial Procedure Rules on the grounds that the goods, works or services are of a specialised nature carried out by only one or a limited number of firms with no reasonably satisfactory alternatives available.

4. Background

- 4.1** The Larkholme Grasslands Environmental scheme is an important part of the Rossall Coastal Defence Scheme both for the creation of improved environmental habitat but also for amenity and landscape improvements. The structural elements of the scheme are especially important as they provide interpretation of the grasslands and enable access across the site.
- 4.2** The Larkholme Grasslands Environmental scheme is fully funded through Grant in Aid (GiA) funding from DEFRA combined with monies from the Coastal Communities fund (CCF), Environment Agency environmental improvement grants and community funding from Fleetwood Town Council and Regenda housing. Future maintenance of the scheme has been considered and all elements are to be designed to minimise future revenue implications.
- 4.3** Broadbent Studios have worked with the council on a number of related public artwork structure projects including the Cleveleys Mythic Coast project and Rossall Observation Tower. Broadbent Studios were appointed in September 2016 to provide initial concept design work and consultation, building on their previous involvement. The detailed design work proposed is a development of this work.
- 4.4** The timetable for development of the detailed design, (allowing for the main contractor Balfour Beatty's programme) is relatively short and requires a prompt start if the main works are not to be delayed. It was therefore agreed at the Project Management Board that Broadbent Studios should be appointed to undertake the work as they already have significant direct knowledge of the site and were best placed to ensure timely delivery. Of key importance is the development of the foundation designs for the bridges which could, if delayed, affect the overall delivery programme.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1** In order for the construction of the environmental features to align with the main Rossall Coastal Defence improvement works it is necessary for a prompt start to deliver the detailed design in good time. In order to achieve this it is necessary to appoint an overseeing designer who has the necessary experience and competence to deliver the works. Broadbent Studios meet these requirements and have provided a quotation against a prepared draft scope of works. A contract has been prepared through the New Engineering Conditions of Contract 3, Professional Service Contract Option A and a letter of intent issued. It is proposed to directly appoint Broadbent Studios.
- 5.2** Exemption from Council's standing orders is therefore sought as this is a specialist area of work with limited suppliers. The initial cost of works to prepare the detailed design is estimated at £24,200.

5.3 The costs to prepare the detailed design works and the subsequent construction are fully funded through external grants. Once the detailed design works are completed and approved by the Council they will be passed to the main contractor Balfour Beatty for construction.

5.4 The Capital costs for design and construction of the environmental works are reflected in the council's capital programme.

6. Delegated functions

6.1 The matters referred to in this report are considered under the following executive function delegated to the Resources Portfolio Holder (as set out in Part 3 of the council's constitution):

“To consider departures from Rules relating to financial and contractual matters if appropriate.”

Financial and legal implications	
Finance	<p>The estimated cost of developing the detailed design is £24,200 as detailed in the quotation from Broadbent Studios. Construction works would be undertaken by Balfour Beatty as part of the competitively tendered Rossall Coastal Defence scheme.</p> <p>All capital works are to be externally funded. The impact on ongoing revenue budgets will be kept to a minimum and any remaining implications will be contained within existing budgets.</p>
Legal	<p>A contract will need to be entered into with Broadbent Studios under New Engineering Conditions of Contract 3 Professional Service Contract Option A.</p>

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
sustainability	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	✓
climate change	x
data protection	x

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List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
None		

List of appendices

None

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