

ELING TIDE MILL AND LEARNING CENTRE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Cabinet of the significant work that has taken place in recent weeks in tendering a number of contract packages that make up the total project at Eling Tide Mill and Learning Centre.
- 1.2 To seek additional funding to allow the project to continue.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council, at its meeting on the 8 September 2014 (minute 24 refers), approved a recommendation from the Cabinet that the Council should act as the Accountable body for the delivery of the Eling Tide Mill and Learning Centre project, at an estimated total budget costs of £1,657,675 and acknowledged the grant conditions and responsibilities related to the award from the Heritage Lottery Fund of £1,379,300.
- 2.2 The District Council had approved a budget contribution of £165,000 towards the total budget cost, with Totton and Eling Town Council contributing £65,000. The remainder of the budget is made up of Volunteer contributions (£8,300) and External Fund Raising (£40,075)
- 2.3 On the 28 July 2015 the District Council, as part of the Lottery Funding agreement, granted Totton and Eling Town Council a 26 year lease of the Eling Tide Mill and Toll Bridge, with the lease expiring on 31 December 2039.
- 2.4 The project has proved to be very complex and is currently behind its original programme timing. In the last 12 months work has been progressed, with all of the various elements of this project now exposed to formal competitive tendering arrangements. The Council has engaged Ramboll as a specialist in project management to assist the Council with the professional and technical advice that is needed to procure works of this nature. Work is currently underway to agree project management protocols with Ramboll for the continued project management arrangements for the restoration on the Eling Tide Mill and Learning Centre.
- 2.5 Following the return of all the tender packages the project projected a shortfall in funding of £398,135. The Council has looked where possible to value engineer some of the tender returns to reduce this shortfall.
- 2.6 On 16 September 2016 the Eling Tide Mill Project Board met and discussed the projected overspend and the possible actions going forward. It was also noted by the Board that inflation on construction projects like this had risen by 17.15% since the project submission in 2014. This amounts to £270,400 on a project of this value.
- 2.7 The Project Board recommended that the District Council, as the Accountable Body, approach the Heritage Lottery Fund to seek further funding for the additional costs of

this project. Previously the Lottery fund had awarded an 83% grant (£1,379,300) compared to a total project cost of £1,657,675.

- 2.8 The Project Board also recommended that the Heritage Lottery Fund be approached to seek funding on a similar basis to the previous 83% (£330,900) with the District Council and the Town Council contributing to the remaining 17% (£67,235) equally, £33,618 for each organisation.
- 2.9 Following discussions with the Heritage lottery Fund we have now received confirmation of the additional funding of £330,900.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The capital budget requires a gross increase of £398,135. The additional budget contribution by this Council of £33,618, as identified in paragraph 2.8, requires Cabinet approval.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Council has a requirement to protect its historic buildings.

5. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None

6. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None

7. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS

Finance and Efficiency: I support this and am pleased to see the project going forward.

Health and Leisure: I am obviously very pleased that our request for extra funding for the Eling Tide Mill project has been approved by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Since we started the scheme inflation has increase by a significant 17.15%. This increase in building costs has naturally put pressure on the original proposals, which, due to the complexity of the site, has meant a delay in the original programme.

Nevertheless, working in partnership with Totton and Eling Town Council we have been able to find a solution which, when completed, will enhance the cultural and historical value of the New Forest further still.

With this grant allocation we can now begin to award contracts and move the project forward.

Finally, my thanks to go to the Officers for their hard work in this endeavour

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That Cabinet approve the additional funding of £33,618

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Background Papers:

Published documents