

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

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| Decision Maker: | River Hamble Harbour Board |
| Date of Decision: | 29 January 2010 |
| Decision Title: | Asset Enhancements – Way Forward |
| Decision Reference: | 1217 |
| Report From: | Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs |

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to propose options for developing an asset enhancement programme for the River Hamble. The core programme will be funded by the Asset Enhancement Reserve which could be used to lever additional funds for the benefit of the River and its users in delivering the vision as set out in the Strategic Plan. A number of ideas have already been collected, but others are welcome and wide ownership of the programme is sought from all River users. To achieve this, a thorough appraisal of all the ideas is required, including likely costs, business cases and potential for partner support. Two options for managing this process are proposed, together with an indication of the likely costs of each option. Both options involve an appraisal process culminating in a comprehensive proposal for an asset enhancement programme.

2. Background

- 2.1. The Harbour Authority has a substantial sum (currently £310,000) in the Asset Enhancement Reserve. These funds have accrued from the sale of the mid-stream piles to the Crown Estate, and the recent transfer of £50,000 from the Revenue Reserve. The Harbour Board has already agreed that this reserve should be set aside to for a programme to improve the facilities and assets of the harbour, for the benefit of users. The programme will be guided by the Strategic Plan for the River Hamble. A number of ideas have been collected over the past 18 months (from harbour staff, other organisations, members of the public and Harbour Board members), falling into six main categories: safety, facilities, environment, education, archaeology, and research projects. Other ideas are actively sought.

3. Proposed options for developing ideas

- 3.1. Whichever management option is chosen, consultation with river users should be a key part of the process. This fund is a unique opportunity for the Harbour Authority to proactively enhance the assets, features and facilities of the harbour over the long term. The way in which the Asset Enhancement Reserve is used could potentially attract additional funding from partners for a variety of projects. Ideally its utilisation will therefore stimulate partnership working and engage the interest of river users and interested parties.
- 3.2. In order to bring the maximum possible number of ideas for enhancements to the fore, appraise the various ideas and engage with potential partners, two possible processes are being considered. In either case, it is suggested that the following parameters be adopted to ensure that ideas are focussed towards the long term benefit of all river users.
- 3.3. Initial consideration of ideas should ensure that they fall within the following scope:
 - a. They should fall within the statutory powers of the Harbour Authority and partners (where applicable).
 - b. They should be capital projects with minimal ongoing revenue costs.
 - c. They should be guided by the River Hamble Strategic Plan.
 - d. They should (ideally) have the potential to attract partnership funding.
- 3.4. The first option would be for a small group of Harbour Board and Management Committee members (say, 3 or 4 of each) to meet to consider the ideas collected to date and develop a shortlist of the best. The shortlist would then be subject to an 'order of magnitude' costing before consideration by the Management Committee and Harbour Board.
- 3.5. Alternatively, a one-day stakeholder workshop could perhaps be organised with representatives of, say, 50 stakeholder groups and other interested parties invited to attend. The format of the workshop would ensure that stakeholders would be able to raise their own ideas as well as comment on others. The workshop would aim to create a clear understanding of the different interests on the river and should enable a broad spectrum of possibilities to be developed. Delegates would have the opportunity to discuss all ideas, expanding on them as they see fit. If this option is accepted, it is recommended that the services of a professional facilitator with relevant maritime expertise should be engaged to run the workshop.
- 3.6. Following from either of these options, a comprehensive Asset Enhancement Programme should be developed. The ideas with significant support would be fully appraised, subjected to a feasibility study (if necessary) and a cost-benefit analysis. Potential partners would also be identified and approached at this stage, in an effort to establish the extent of any partnership funding which may be available for projects. Depending on the length and complexity of the shortlist, it may be necessary to engage a consultant to carry out this phase of the work.

4. Budget

- 4.1. The first option (paragraph 3.4) would be effectively cost-free, apart from room hire. It is anticipated that the proposal for a one-day workshop (paragraph 3.5), including room hire, lunch and facilitator would cost a maximum of £2,000.
- 4.2. If either process is as fruitful as anticipated, it is estimated that the cost of engaging a consultant to carry out an appraisal of the options, together with a search for suitable partners, could be up to £10,000.
- 4.3. If approved and a consultant is employed the costs of doing so should be funded from the Asset Enhancement Reserve and would represent approximately 3% of its total. A successful appointment whereby partnership funding was attracted, would be expected to significantly outweigh these consultancy costs.

5. Developing and implementing ideas

- 5.1. Whichever mechanism is used to identify and refine ideas it is suggested that a small project Steering Group is subsequently established, consisting of the Chairman of the Management Committee, the Chairman of the Harbour Board (or their nominated representatives) and the Marine Director, to oversee the development of the programme and manage the consultant (if required). The proposed Asset Enhancement Programme developed by this small project Steering Group would be presented to the Management Committee for review and to the Harbour Board for approval.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the River Hamble Harbour Board:

6.1. Either:

- a) Approves the establishment of a small combined Harbour Board/Management Committee group to create a shortlist of ideas

Or;

- b) Approves the concept of a facilitated workshop, as set out above.

- 6.2. If 6.1.b above is accepted, approves the selection and appointment of a consultant to facilitate the proposed workshop, and funding for the workshop (including the consultant) to a maximum of £2,000.
- 6.3. If either 6.1.a or 6.1.b above is accepted, agrees in principle to appoint a consultant at the appropriate stage to carry out the appraisal work and partner search to a maximum budget of £10,000.
- 6.4. Agrees to the establishment of a steering group to manage this project and the consultant (if appointed).

6.5. Agrees that any expenditure on this project should be drawn from the Asset Enhancement Reserve.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

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| Hampshire safer and more secure for all: | yes |
| Corporate Business plan link number (if appropriate): | |
| Maximising well-being: | yes |
| Corporate Business plan link number (if appropriate): | |
| Enhancing our quality of place: | yes |
| Corporate Business plan link number (if appropriate): | |

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

DocumentLocation

None