

ITEM NO:10

DECISION-MAKER:	COUNCIL CABINET		
SUBJECT:	SEA CITY MUSEUM PROJECT		
DATE OF DECISION:	COUNCIL: 18 NOVEMBER 2009 CABINET: 23 NOVEMBER 2009		
REPORT OF:	CABINET MEMBER FOR LEISURE, CULTURE AND HERITAGE		
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

N/A

SUMMARY

The City Council has a longstanding ambition to develop a suitable heritage attraction capable of displaying our collections and telling the stories of the many Southampton events which are of international historical significance. On 20th April 2009, Cabinet gave approval to spend £992,000 on developing Phase 1 of the Sea City Museum within the Leisure and Culture Capital Programme funded from Council resources and a successful Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid. The development stage of the project will conclude with a further HLF bid which will be submitted at the end of November 2009. In order to achieve the overall project timescales, it is necessary to undertake further 'development work' at risk whilst the HLF considers the bid and therefore, this report proposes an increased budget to fund this expenditure. A decision will be made on this bid on the 23rd March 2010.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

COUNCIL

- (i) That Council approves the addition of £375,000 to the Leisure, Culture and Heritage capital programme (phased £307,000 in 2009/10 and £68,000 in 2010/11).

CABINET

- (ii) That, in accordance with Finance Procedure Rules, Cabinet approve the increase in the total spend on the development of this scheme by £375,000.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To enable the project to continue to be developed until a decision is made in March 2010, which is necessary if the target completion date in 2012 is to be achieved.

CONSULTATION

2. There have been dedicated meetings with officers from the HLF, English Heritage, the Police and The Twentieth Century Society. In addition, there was a staffed exhibition of this project within the context of the cultural quarter at West Quay and in the Art Gallery in September. A large number of special

interest groups were invited to the event in the Gallery. Consultants are also currently consulting with a number of key stakeholders and key audiences. Consultation within the City Council has also taken place with officers in Planning, Procurement, Civic Buildings, Insurance, Transport, Highways, Open Spaces, Legal Services, Leisure Finance and Property Services.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

3. Not to authorise the expenditure required to continue to progress the project between November 2009 and April 2010. If this was not approved then it would not be possible to reach the target completion date. Completion in Spring 2012 is a challenging target, to remove four months from the programme would make the target unachievable.

DETAIL

4. In April 2009, Cabinet approved expenditure of £992,000 to take the development of the project from early feasibility to the stage when it would be ready to make a Round 2 application to the HLF. A project team was procured including: - architects, museum designers, project managers and quantity surveyors, business planning consultants, fundraising consultants and activity planning consultants. Members of staff from the Arts and Heritage team were seconded to work on the project. The project has now progressed to a stage where it is almost ready to submit to the HLF.
5. The Round 2 application to the HLF which will be made at the end of November 2009 will relate to the first phase of a project which is estimated to cost £15m. There is scope for further phases to be added later to complete the story of Southampton's heritage. The project involves the use of the Magistrates Court building plus a new pavilion to the north.
6. Phase 1 will include two permanent exhibitions plus a special exhibitions gallery. The Gateway exhibition will tell the story of Southampton as Gateway to the World, and will chart the movement of people through the port since pre-history. It will use a series of personal stories to describe the wide variety of movements into and out of Southampton. These stories will cover those who have passed through the City as "Invaders and Settlers", for the purpose of "Going to War", and those "Seeking a Better Life" either in the UK or abroad. The Titanic crew's story exhibition will tell the so far untold story of impact the Titanic had upon Southampton and particularly the crew and their families. Visitors will learn about the crew, life in the City at the turn of the century in Southampton, life in the Merchant Navy and how Southampton was affected by the disaster. In addition to these two permanent exhibitions, the museum will have a space of around 480sqm for temporary exhibitions. There will be a programme of around four exhibitions per year, some of national interest, some with more local appeal. This space will provide an opportunity to show more of the City's collections than it is possible to display at present. The first temporary exhibition will be about "Titanic the Legend" covering the fascination in the Titanic since 1912, which has revealed itself through the production of films, publications and the search for the wreck. During the first year of opening there will be a particular emphasis on the Titanic to tie in with the 100 year commemoration of the sinking of RMS Titanic.

7. The project will create a nationally important visitor attraction that will showcase the City's archaeology and heritage collections. Extensive use will be made of personal objects, documents, photographs and oral history testimony from the collections.
8. The business plan currently estimates around 150,000 visitors per year.
9. The aims of the project are to:-
 - Create new gallery spaces that provide local people and visitors to Southampton with enhanced access to the heritage of this internationally important maritime city
 - Create a place of inspiration which encourages current and new audiences to learn about the diverse heritage of the City and contribute their own ideas and stories
 - Involve local people in the development of these galleries
 - Deliver learning workshops and events for schools, lifelong learners and community outreach initiatives that help these audiences to learn about the City's maritime heritage and how it has influenced their own personal and community identities
 - Restore, open up public access to, and provide a sustainable future for an important Grade II* building which is in need of repair and which otherwise will have no identifiable use
 - Act as a place of orientation which inter-connects with other treasures of Southampton's heritage located elsewhere in the City
 - Make a significant contribution to the City's wider economic, social, educational and cultural objectives enshrined in the 'City of Southampton Strategy Towards 2026' and the 'Towards an International City of Culture' arts and heritage strategic vision
 - Form a core element of Southampton's emerging Cultural Quarter
 - Become an important visitor destination attracting new national and international visitors to the City and increasing the dwell time of current visitors who pass through via the airport or on cruise ships
 - Attract potential visitors who live within 2 hours drive to visit the City for motivations other than retail
 - Create a regionally significant learning resource for young people and lifelong learners, inspiring local people to take pride in their City and contributing towards ambitions to raise educational attainment.
10. In August 2009, a presentation was made to the HLF when the project design had developed to level of RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) Stage C. This presentation was very positively received and permission was given to progress to the next stage of design.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital

11. The first phase of this scheme is currently included in the capital programme in the sum of £992,000 with full approval to spend up to this sum.

12. The first stage is now complete, and against the approved sum of £992,000, it is anticipated that there will be a £200,000 underspend. This underspend accrues jointly to the HLF (£100,000) and the City Council (£100,000)
13. To continue to progress the scheme through until the date of the HLF decision in March 2010, further spending at risk of £575,000 is required in addition to the money already spent (which is circa £772,000)
14. Of this new spending at risk, £100,000 can be funded from the Council's share of the underspend on phase 1 of the project, which means a further sum of £475,000 is required from the Council's overall anticipated contribution of £5M.
15. The overall scheme value needs to increase from £992,000 to £1,367,000 (existing phase 1 spend of £772,000 plus new spend of £575,000) an increase of £375,000
16. The table below shows the breakdown of costs during the period November 2009 to April 2010.

17.

Element	Detail	Estimate
Professional Fees and specialists	Design Team and Specialist Consultants	462,500
Staff Costs	Leisure and Culture staff	25,000
Procurement		22,500
Other	Survey costs/planning and legal fees and contingency	65,000
Total Project Costs		575,000

18. It should be made clear that the proposed expenditure to April 2010 is 'at risk' and should the HLF application not be successful, the City Council would need to find funding to pay for it.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

19. Under Section 12 Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964, a local authority may provide and maintain museums within its area and may do all such things as may be necessary or expedient for or in connection with the provision and maintenance thereof. Under Section 111 Local Government Act 1972, the Council shall have the power to do anything calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of its functions. This includes the power to enter into a contract in this regard.

Other Legal Implications:

20. None.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

21. The 'City of Southampton Community Strategy Towards 2026' launched in 2007 identifies within one of its 6 objectives, the importance of building upon existing collections to create new ventures which celebrate our rich maritime heritage for the benefit of visitors and residents. 'Towards an International

City of Culture' arts and heritage strategic vision, approved by Southampton City Council in September 2008, proposes the Heritage Centre as a core ingredient of Southampton's emerging Cultural Quarter.

Property

22. The building is currently not included in the Civic Centre refurbishment project. If the Sea City Museum project does not proceed, in order for alternative uses to be viable, the Council would be required to invest significantly in major repairs to the Magistrates Court building over the next few years. There is no allowance for this in future repairs and maintenance budgets. Limited option appraisals have been undertaken to identify possible alternative uses, with no viable alternatives identified to date. It will also be necessary to continue with periodic testing, ensure heating and ventilation levels are met, the building is secure etc to an area with no identified alternative use.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	None
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Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
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Background Documents

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
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1.	None	
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Background documents available for inspection at: N/A

FORWARD PLAN No: LHO3711 **KEY DECISION?** YES

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	ALL
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