

Report of: CABINET MEMBER FOR LEISURE, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Briefing to: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Date of Decision: 22 JULY 2010

Subject: SEA CITY MUSEUM – SCHEME APPROVAL

SUMMARY

1. The purpose of the Sea City Museum report going to the 2nd August 2010 Cabinet Meeting is to seek the approvals needed to take the Museum project through to completion. The report will also seek approval to enter into any agreements necessary for the implementation of the project and to carryout a procurement procedure to identify an operator to run the museum.

BACKGROUND

1. 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. This application was submitted in October 2009. On the 23rd November 2009, Cabinet gave approval to spend a further £375,000 to undertake further development work at risk whilst the Round Two bid was being considered by the HLF. Prior to this £48,000 had been approved for the feasibility stage of the project bringing the total approved spend to £1,415m. On the 17th February 2010 Council added £13,585m in to the Leisure and Culture Capital Programme to demonstrate their commitment to the project to the HLF. £1.223m was made available to carry out repairs to the building fabric, including asbestos removal in the areas of the building not being used as part of the first phase of the project. In March 2010 the HLF advised that the bid had been successful in being awarded a further £4.6m towards the project on top of the funding already awarded after the round 1 application.
2. 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.
3. Phase 1 of Sea City Museum 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. 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. 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.

RESOURCES/POLICY/FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4. This report will seek scheme approval for the funding added into the Councils capital programme in respect of this project in February 2010.

OPTIONS AND TIMESCALES

5. Alternative options and locations have been explored in the past for a museum for the city. Officers have been working on the proposals to develop the museum in the magistrates court building since 2008. The project has been awarded two rounds of HLF grants to help develop the project and take it forward. There is always the option to return the grants and not take the project forward, however the plan is currently to proceed with starting on site in October 2010 with a completion date of April 2012.