

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

25 FEBRUARY 2020

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF OPERATIONS -- COMMUNITY SERVICES

COASTAL PROTECTION ENGINEERING WORKS TO WESTERN BREAKWATER AND EASTERN PROMENADE, INCLUDING RHYCH POINT, PORTHCAWL

1. Purpose of Report.

In accordance with procurement rules to seek the approval of Cabinet to invite tenders for coastal defence work to the Western Breakwater and Eastern Promenade, Porthcawl that are estimated to be in excess of £5 million.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priorities

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate priority:-

Supporting a successful economy – taking steps to make the county a good place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the county

3. Background.

3.1 Western Breakwater, Eastern Promenade and Rhych Point are covered by the South Wales (Lavernock Point to St. Ann's Head) Shoreline Management Plan 2 (SMP2), inside Policy Scenario Unit 7. The SMP2 states that "the main policy driver for this frontage is to reduce the risk of coastal erosion and flooding to the developed area of Porthcawl, through a policy of hold the line by maintaining and upgrading defences at Trecco Bay, Sandy Bay, Town Beach and Marine Drive, subject to the future availability of public funding for coastal erosion and flood risk management".

3.2 The Western Breakwater was constructed in the 1820s, with a further extension in the 1860s. The sea wall at Eastern Promenade was constructed in the 1860s, to form part of the inner harbour. The Western Breakwater and Eastern Promenade sea walls have been successful in protecting the seafront properties against flooding and erosion. The Outline Business Case has identified that the sea wall structures are reaching the end of their life and becoming more susceptible to overtopping and ongoing maintenance requirements and costs will increase exponentially over the next decade. It is considered that the works future proof the structure for the long term which along with appropriate maintenance would meet the timeline of 50-100 years, in relation to requirements of epoch 3 in SMP2.

3.3 The sea wall and breakwater structures generally have re-pointing works undertaken funded from its annual budget allocation. This only provides a basic level of maintenance to the outer shell of the structures and does not address any internal structural and hydrology issues. The Western Breakwater has been subject

to historic failures, most notably in 1974 when the inner old wall collapsed following storm damage, which caused deck surcharge loads and storm washout, and ultimately led to a collapse/failure of the Eastern end of the structure.

- 3.4 The need to provide continuing flood and coastal erosion defence to the sea-front is recognised in the SMP2 and the Council carries out regular inspections of the structures carrying out holding repairs as required to reduce the likelihood of catastrophic failure. See appendix 1: site location boundary for all areas of inclusion within the scheme.
- 3.5 The asset inspection of the Western Breakwater undertaken in March 2017 identified that this Breakwater was in a deteriorating condition warranting intervention.
- 3.6 The structures protect several million pounds worth of assets and infrastructure along the Western Breakwater and Eastern Promenade including; the walkways, highway, commercial businesses and the properties within the Jennings building and properties that would otherwise be impacted by flooding events from the Porthcawl seafront.
- 3.7 The defences also protect other commercial properties and utilities (gas, water, sewerage, etc.) along the seafront which provide important benefits to both employment and the economy of Porthcawl. Continuing to protect this area will give assurance to stakeholders to continue to live, work, visit and invest in the area. The project will work alongside other strategic projects within the regeneration masterplan for Porthcawl, enhancing the development viability within the 100acre brownfield site, near the coastal structures.
- 3.8 If the structures were to fail, a retreat of the shoreline position throughout Sandy Bay would be expected. Failure of the structures would also result in up to 531 residential and 175 non-residential properties being at flood risk.

4. Current situation / proposal.

- 4.1 The Communities Directorate has identified, as a priority, the improvement of these structures. By remediation and futureproofing the current structures the Council is investing in sustainable outcomes for the community to put in measures to mitigate against potential flooding and property loss.
- 4.2 Welsh Government (WG), following initial appraisals, has invited a Full Business Case from the Council for the remediation works and the Council is currently awaiting confirmation of scheme approval. Subject to approval by WG, the scheme may be eligible for 75% funding from WG. The remaining 25% that would be required has been identified in the Council's Capital Programme.
- 4.3 A contract will be tendered through the online tendering process in accordance with Council's approved procurement strategy, with an oversight from the Procurement section.
- 4.4 The successful tenderer will be identified through a quality/price tender process and the awarding of any contract will follow appropriate procurement and award procedures.

4.5 Following a successful procurement, tender and award process, it is considered that the contract will be 12-18 month contract starting in spring/summer 2020.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.

5.1 The report does not have any impact upon policy framework and procedure rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 An initial assessment identifies that there are no equalities issues related to this report.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment

7.1 A Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 assessment has been completed. A summary of the implications from the assessment relating to the five ways of working is as follows:

- **Long-Term**

The scheme seeks to maintain sea defenses and to protect properties within Porthcawl to meet long term needs of its residents, with allowance for sea level rise to year 2118, in accordance with current guidance.

- **Prevention**

The scheme seeks to provide adequate sea defences to mitigate against overtopping and flood risk to prevent problems occurring or worsening, with allowance for sea level rise to year 2118, in accordance with current guidance.

- **Integration**

The provision will provide protection to businesses and residents which may provide an economic and social benefit.

- **Collaboration**

The scheme has been supported by WG in meeting the SMP2 for this section of the Welsh coastline which will assist residents and businesses

- **Involvement**

The proposal has been subject to public consultation on the ways in which the issue of sea defences can be managed and how they benefit to community of Porthcawl.

8. Financial Implications.

- 8.1 WG has been approached for funding for the scheme and they are in the process of assessing the Council's Business Case. If successful the scheme may be eligible for 75% funding support from WG, with a 25% contribution from the Council. Upon receipt of the formal notification from WG and completion of the tender and procurement process the Council will formally apply for the next stage of funding from WG.
- 8.2 The remaining 25% contribution has been previously approved and the funding is currently identified in the Council's Capital Programme.
- 9. Recommendation.**
- 9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approve authorisation to tender for the coastal defence work to the Western Breakwater and Eastern Promenade structures.

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Background Documents: None