

Meeting: Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee

Date: 28 June 2016

Title: St Mary's Lighthouse and Visitor Centre HLF project

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Service: Environment, Housing and Leisure

Wards affected: All

1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the schedule to complete Stage One of the work on the Lighthouse, in advance of a Stage Two bid to Heritage Lottery Fund.

2 Recommendations

The committee is invited to note the information indicated in the report and outlined in the presentation.

3 Details

St Mary's Lighthouse was founded in 1898. The building is listed Grade II on the Statutory List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest and is situated on a tidal island in the St Mary's Conservation Area.

- 3.1.1 **The Restoration of the Lighthouse and Keepers' Cottage.** The project will ensure the survival of the buildings, both the Lighthouse Tower and the Keepers' Cottages, through a programme of capital works including localised repairs to flat and pitched roofs, hopper heads and soil pipes; investigations and repair of external cracking of visitor centre elevations; repair to tower head; repair/replace of windows; replace damaged glazing to lantern windows; external repairs and decoration. Internal works include: general internal refurbishment; remodelling of visitor centre; corrosion treatment; electronics.
- 3.1.2 **Renewal of Museum/Heritage offer.** The Lighthouse and Visitor Centre serves as an iconic tourist attraction, a heritage museum and a key education and learning centre. It contains an historic collection of artefacts, documents, memorabilia relating to sea navigation and the maritime history of the island and North East Coast. A renewal and modernisation of interpretation would enhance both learning and visitor experience at the venue. The project would also install the original Victorian Optic into the base of the tower as an exciting new visitor attraction.
- 3.1.3 **Recent Progress.** Successful outcome following submission to Heritage Lottery Fund allocating initial £164.3k for Stage One Development Phase of the project.

3.1.4 **Current Position.** The HLF bid for St. Mary's Lighthouse was re-submitted to meet the 11th February 2016 deadline, following some adjustments to the scheme following HLF guidance. This did not change the level of agreed Council commitment but, through the inclusion of the investment in causeway repairs, increased the proportion of Council contribution to the overall project.

3.2 **Next Milestones.** Immediate work to deliver the project and meet HLF targets for Stage 2 bid submission requires all development work to be completed by the end of May 2017.

- Activity Plan July - November 2016
- Conservation Plan June - August 2016
- Management and Maintenance Plan October 2016 - January 2017
- Project Business Plan - September - October 2016
- Ecological/wildlife habitat surveys - October - March 2017
- Consultation/engagement events - June - November 2016
- Refurbishment and demolitions asbestos - September - October 2016
- Drainage and utility survey - September - October 2016
- Buried tank excavation and exploration survey - September - October 2016
- Structural Investigations and paint analysis - September - October 2016
- M&E surveys / assessments - September - October 2016
- Environment / condensation feasibility assessment - September - October 2016
- Marketing plan - July - September 2016
- Volunteer plan - July - September 2016
- TWAM Interpretation Feasibility Study - July - September 2016
- Draw up detailed timetable capital works delivery - November - January 2017
- Finalise costings and cash flow for capital works - December - January 2017
- Submit planning application March - June 2017
- Confirm storage arrangements for existing display material and exhibits during the capital delivery - August 2016
- Stage C Review - January 2017

Completion of stage two bid and supporting documentation - January – February 2017

3.3 Based upon a specification agreed by HLF and North Tyneside Council, partner organisation Capita will be appointed to undertake the initial development work.

3.4 An Officer team consisting of officers from North Tyneside Council and Capita has been meeting regularly to steer the project, ensure that timescales are met and appropriate consultation undertaken. This group will meet through the development stage and report progress to HLF.

3.5 The presentation will give an overview of the proposals for St Mary's Lighthouse and Visitor Centre and outline project plans to meet HLF development targets in preparation for the Stage 2 HLF bid submission.

4 Background Information

The following background papers have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

- 1) St Mary's Lighthouse and Visitor Centre: Heritage Lottery Fund Bid submission HG-15-07433 February 2016 (North Tyneside Council)