

REPORT TO: Cabinet

DATE: 28th October 2010

SUBJECT: Southport Pier - Proposed Structural Assessment and Maintenance Option Appraisal

WARDS AFFECTED: Ainsdale, Birkdale, Dukes, Kew, Norwood and Cambridge

REPORT OF: Peter Moore
Environmental and Technical Services Director

CONTACT OFFICER: David Kay
Client Manager
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EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL: No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

The report is to request a scheme for £20,000 be included in the capital programme in order to undertake the required structural assessment and maintenance option appraisal of the Southport Pier. This will be funded from the Southport Pier Maintenance Sinking Fund.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

To enable the Environmental and Technical Services Director to commission Capita Symonds to undertake the required works.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

It is recommended that:

Cabinet approves the inclusion in the Leisure and Tourism Capital Programme of £20,000 for a new scheme to carry out Structural Assessment and Maintenance Option Appraisal works at Southport Pier. The funding for this work is to be provided entirely from the Southport Pier Maintenance Sinking Fund.

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: No

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Immediately following expiry of call in.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

The proposed works will identify the options in order to ensure the ongoing maintenance of the Southport Pier.

In the event that the exercise is not undertaken, or ultimately not acted upon, then this will jeopardise the long-term viability of the pier.

IMPLICATIONS:**Budget/Policy Framework:**

The Pier sinking fund currently contains £517,295 comprising £117,295 as the remaining balance of the payment in settlement of the claims and £400,000 accumulated through the annual £50,000 contributions.

This funding cannot be expended without Cabinet approval.

Financial

It is recommended that the sum of £20,000 be made available from the Southport Pier Sinking Fund in order to undertake the structural assessment, option appraisal and any further investigative works necessary.

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £	2013/ 2014 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure	£20,000			
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources	£20,000			
Specific Capital Resources				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	N/A			
How will the service be funded post expiry?	N/A			

Legal: Not appropriate

Risk Assessment: Not appropriate

Asset Management: Not Applicable

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

The Leisure Services and Tourism Department have been consulted and any comments have been taken into account in preparing this report.

FD 534 The Interim Head of Corporate Finance & Information Services has been consulted and has no comments on this report

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community		√	
2	Creating Safe Communities	√		
3	Jobs and Prosperity		√	
4	Improving Health and Well-Being		√	
5	Environmental Sustainability	√		
6	Creating Inclusive Communities		√	
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy		√	
8	Children and Young People		√	

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

None

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Southport Pier was reopened in 2002 following a programme of restoration, in which the Authority were aided with funding provided through the Heritage Lottery Fund and by an ERDF grant.
- 1.2 The completion of the scheme was severely delayed due to the initial contractor entering administration and protracted contractual disputes with the replacement contractor. The Authority ultimately agreed a full and final settlement of its disputes with the replacement contractor and was in receipt of a payment in settlement of its claims totalling £773,472.
- 1.3 The settlement was placed in a sinking fund, together with an additional contribution of £50,000 per year, in order to be able to address the ongoing maintenance requirements of the pier.

2.0 Proposals for Consideration

- 2.1 A set of maintenance proposals for the pier was developed, as part of the requirements for Heritage Lottery funding. These requirements have not been fully complied with, as the Authority has sought to enjoy a period of amnesty from significant maintenance costs following the restoration works.
- 2.2 The pier superstructure has been maintained in good decorative order so as to ensure ongoing commercial appeal and minor repair works, including works to the deck boarding, have been carried out to address general wear and tear.
- 2.3 It is now necessary to consider the condition of the pier structure and develop a revised set of maintenance proposals to safeguard the condition of the facility for the future.
- 2.4 The Authorities Technical Services partner Capita Symonds have been asked to identify a cost to undertake a structural assessment and option appraisal exercise comprising:
 - Structural assessment to consider the condition and integrity of the structure
 - Statutory Bridge survey of portion of the pier extending over Marine Drive.
 - Identification of any issues arising as a result of environmental corrosion, vibration from trams and other vehicles, collision, etc and provision of costed proposals for any necessary remedial action.
 - Identification of protective coatings to safeguard the structure from environmental corrosion going forward, including provision of a fully costed full life option appraisal.
- 2.5 The cost of the works by Capita Symonds has been identified at £16,000. This is considered to reasonable given the extensive task requirements.

2.6 It is proposed that a further £4,000 should also be made available but held in reserve in order to address any further investigative works if this should prove to be necessary during the course of the currently identified exercise.

3.0 Financial Implications

3.1 The Pier sinking fund currently contains £517,295 comprising £117,295 as the remaining balance of the payment in settlement of the claims and £400,000 accumulated through the annual £50,000 contributions. This funding cannot be expended without Cabinet approval.

3.2 The financial implications of the works necessary to ensure the long-term viability of the pier will be reported following completion of the option appraisal exercise.

4.0 Recommendation

Cabinet approves the inclusion in the Leisure and Tourism Capital Programme of £20,000 for a new scheme to carry out Structural Assessment and Maintenance Option Appraisal works at Southport Pier. The funding for this work is to be provided entirely from the Southport Pier Maintenance Sinking Fund.