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**Report to:** Cabinet

**Date of Report:** 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014

**Subject:** Inclusion in Capital Programme of Coastal Regional Monitoring Programme and Single Beam Bathymetric Survey Contract Award.

**Report of:** Director of Built Environment

**Wards Affected:** Harington, Ravenmeols, Cambridge, Dukes, Ainsdale, Manor, Blundellsands, Church, Linacre

**Is this a Key Decision?** Yes

**Is it included in the Forward Plan?**

Yes

**Exempt/Confidential**

No

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### **Purpose/Summary**

To seek approval to include the allocation of £770,000 grant for Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme into the Capital Programme 2014/2015 and award a contract worth £244,515 to Environmental Scientifics Group (ESG) for Bathymetric Surveys through the Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme procurement framework from this grant.

### **Recommendation(s)**

That the Cabinet

- (1) approve the addition of £770,000 ring - fenced grant for the Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme to the Capital Programme; and
- (2) approve the contract award for the North West Bathymetric Survey (£244,515) to Environmental Scientifics Group as detailed in Section 5 below.

### **How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?**

	<b><u>Corporate Objective</u></b>	<b><u>Positive Impact</u></b>	<b><u>Neutral Impact</u></b>	<b><u>Negative Impact</u></b>
1	Creating a Learning Community		X	
2	Jobs and Prosperity		X	
3	Environmental Sustainability		X	
4	Health and Well-Being	X		
5	Children and Young People		X	
6	Creating Safe Communities		X	
7	Creating Inclusive Communities		X	

8	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening Local Democracy	X		
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**Reasons for the Recommendation:** The £770,000 grant is the 2014/2015 annual allocation of a 5 year programme of coastal monitoring. The bathymetric survey is required as part of the programme to gather data upon the North West Coastline, to establish a series of datasets to support coastal management decisions.

**What will it cost and how will it be financed?**

**(A) Revenue Costs**

There are no revenue cost implications.

**(B) Capital Costs** The cost of this survey is funded wholly from the CERMS 2011-16 grant. Approval of the 4th year allocation (2014 – 2015) has been agreed at £770,000 by the Environment Agency Board and is 100% grant funded by the Environment Agency. The bathymetric survey will be funded from this grant

**Implications:**

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

<b>Legal</b>	
Cabinet has delegated authority to approve the entry of new schemes into the Capital Programme.	
<b>Human Resources</b>	
<b>Equality</b>	
1. No Equality Implication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Impact on Service Delivery:**

**What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?**

The Head of Corporate Finance and ICT has been consulted and notes there are no direct financial implications for the Council. The intended expenditure will be met by the grant allocation of £770,000. This was presented to SCIG on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 for inclusion in the Capital Programme. (FD 3110/14).

The Head of Corporate Legal Services has been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report (LD 2314/14)

**Are there any other options available for consideration?**

None

**Implementation Date for the Decision**

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting

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**Background Papers:**

None

## **1. Introduction/Background**

- 1.1 Sefton Council has been the lead authority for the North West Coastal Regional Monitoring Programme since 2007, collecting and analysing data to inform decisions relating to coastal erosion and flood risk management.
- 1.2 A nationally coordinated grant application was made to the Environment Agency in May 2010, and an indicative grant allocation of £4.2million, for the period 2011-2016 has been allocated to the North West programme. £770,000 has been approved for 2014-2015, this grant is ring-fenced for this programme. Sefton Council manages the grant on behalf of all the North West Maritime Authorities.
- 1.3 The North West Coastal Regional Monitoring Programme requires bathymetric data to record the topographic level and features of the seabed. The budget for this work for 2014/15 is £313,000.

## **2. Strategic Capital Investment Group (SCIG).**

- 2.1 The grant allocation of £770,000 was presented to SCIG 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 for approval for inclusion in the Capital Programme
- 2.2 At the time of writing this report the SCIG meeting hadn't taken place. The decision of SCIG is being reported separately. This report is conditional that SCIG has approved the recommendation for inclusion in the capital programme.

## **3. Bathymetric Survey Procurement Process**

- 3.1 Following Cabinet approval in October 2010 a tendering exercise to establish a procurement framework for the Coastal Monitoring programme was carried out during 2011. The single beam bathymetric framework detailed survey work packages for call off contracts during the five year programme 2011 – 2016.
- 3.2 Two companies were appointed to the single beam bathymetric framework.
- 3.3.1 For the bathymetric work packages required in 2014/15 there was a price difference of £60,375 between the 2 companies on the call off tendered rates.
- 3.3.2 The company with the Most Economical Advantageous Tender was approached to confirm costs. The costs had risen by 10% due to increases in fuel and staffing costs but were still significantly less than the other company's tendered bid. The total cost is £196,525 and this value is below the budget for this package.
- 3.3.3 A review of the contracts was carried out to verify that the works could be awarded through the framework procedures.

## **4. Additional Data**

- 4.1 The above work left an under spend of £116,475 and a number of different survey proposals were put to the Regional Monitoring steering group and Environment Agency for approval.

- 4.2 The group and Environment Agency agreed two additional surveys, which were:  
Tidal Current monitoring along the bathymetric survey lines and  
Sediment Sampling at certain locations along the bathymetric survey lines
- 4.3 The preferred company, to undertake the bathymetric survey, was approached for costs to undertake the additional surveys and the price is £47,990.
- 4.4 These surveys were not tendered for in the original framework, so there is no direct cost comparison. However, we are aware from previous surveys that the cost to charter a boat capable of doing these surveys is in excess of £1000 per day and the tidal current survey will take 70 days. So by carrying out the surveys during the bathymetric surveys there is an overall cost saving to the programme of at least £20,000.

## **5. Contract Award**

- 5.1 Approval is sought to award the contract for Bathymetric Surveys 2014/15 to Environmental Scientific Group (ESG). The total cost of this service is £244,515. This will be 100% grant aid funded by the Environment Agency.
- 5.2 Costs made up of:  
£196,525 for the Bathymetric Survey  
£18550 for the Tidal Monitoring  
£29440 for 124 sediment samples to be collected.

The remaining budget will be re-allocated to other areas within the programme which has already been approved by the Environment Agency.