

Report to: Charity Committee

Date of Meeting: 26th June 2017

Report Title: Seafront Splash Pad Water Play and Kiosk

Report By: Monica Adams-Acton, Assistant Director for Regeneration and Culture

Purpose of Report

To provide updates on further investigations into the proposed seafront water play and kiosk project and on the outcome of the grant application to the fourth round of the Coastal Communities Fund (CCF4).

Recommendation(s)

1. To cease further work in relation to development of a water play feature at Pelham Place.
2. To note the successful outcome of the CCF4 bid and:
3. Approve a budget of £180,000 for the refurbishment of the redundant fountain and adjacent public space at White Rock. £95,000 of this budget is the CCF4 grant award, and the balance is to come from the Foreshore Trust's reserves and existing budget, as set out in this report.
4. Delegate authority to the Director of Operational Services or his nominee in consultation with the Chair of the Charity Committee to undertake appropriate surveys; secure planning permission; and, subject to the outcome of the surveys, commission contractors to design and complete works, within the approved budget, that will re-animate this area by the installation of a new water feature and associated physical improvements.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. There are significant technical, and potentially costly, issues in relation to the installation of a splash pad and associated facilities on the site at Pelham Place.
2. The bid for funding a programme of projects under the 4th round of the national Coastal Communities Fund was successful, and there is an award of £95,000 within the programme to refurbish the redundant fountain and adjacent area near 'The Source' skate park at White Rock. This is subject to additional investment by the Foreshore Trust (match funding), and completion of the project by December 2019.

Pelham Place water play

1. The Charity Committee granted approval in principle in December 2016 for officers to procure a seafront splash pad water play facility, associated seating and kiosk building (to house the plant room and potential refreshment kiosk) at Pelham Place, with a nominal budget of £225,000. This tendering exercise and additional investigations into likely operating and ongoing maintenance costs were considered essential prior to the Charity Committee making a final decision to approve the project.
2. The favoured position for the water play was the grassed landscaped area to the far west of Pelham car park.
3. A national water play company has produced initial outline designs with an indicative cost of £250K for the installation and equipment.
4. Quotes have been obtained for electrical and fresh water connections.
5. However, further site investigations have revealed the presence of a main sewer directly underneath the site. Southern Water has expressed concerns about construction above this sewer and is unwilling to confirm technical details or engage in further discussion prior to planning permission.
6. It is not considered to be prudent to tender the works without a good understanding of the required site preparation works, including any work that Southern Water might require in order to permit construction above the sewer.
7. Completion of a successful tender process is necessary to inform a planning application.
8. Given the above difficulties, officers have been considering other potential locations for the project but no potentially suitable alternative discrete sites have yet been identified.

White Rock water fountain

9. The Council, as trustee, was successful in securing funding from CCF4 to support further improvement of the promenade in the White Rock area and to promote increased use and enjoyment of the Hastings seafront. A total of £75,000 has been awarded for works to refurbish the redundant fountain and adjacent public space, and a further £20,000 for project management of these works.
10. Match-funding of £50,000 has already been earmarked in the Trust's 2017/18 budget for this project, in anticipation of works costing approximately £145,000.
11. However, the fountain pool has not been used for some considerable time and a structural survey, as well as a test of its watertightness, is warranted before work to develop design options is commissioned. The cost of the initial surveys and design work is estimated to be an additional £35,000. This initial phase would be completed by December 2018. The outcome of the design work would inform the scale of the project, as well as likely future running and maintenance costs.
12. It is proposed that a potential water play facility be considered, and costed, as part of the site investigations and tendering process.

Policy Implications

13. Risk Management – there are risks associated with the reanimation of the White Rock fountain area. These arise from the condition of the structure and the buildings below. These risks will be carefully managed by carrying out appropriate structural surveys as part of the design process when restoring the water feature.
14. Environmental Issues: the water fountain at White Rock has not been in use for over two years and is regarded as an eye-sore. Other environmental issues will be taken into account as part of the design process.
15. Economic/Financial Implications: delaying the original water play project at Pelham Place will save funds for the trust. Reanimation of the water fountain will have a positive impact in terms of attracting tourism and encouraging promenading in the area.

Wards Affected

Castle

Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness

Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)

Risk Management Yes

Environmental Issues Yes

Economic/Financial Implications Yes

Human Rights Act

Organisational Consequences

Local People's Views

Anti-Poverty

Additional Information

None required

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