

Agenda Item

Exec Board

10 June 2009

Tracey Guiry



Report of Exemption to Standing Orders for Exmouth and Seaton Design services

Summary

Standing Orders require urgent exemptions to be reported to Executive Board for information. In order to meet the funding deadline, the exemption has been granted, as indicated at Appendix

In order to for EDDC to apply to the Sea Change funding process for £2million funding to complete the visitor centre projects in Exmouth and Seaton, we would like to request a tender from three organisations with specialist exhibition design knowledge and proven track records, to advise us on costs and exhibition designs for exhibit fit-out. These are outline designs, on paper, for the application process only.

We would also like to invite three known specialist candidates to tender because there are no candidates suitable on Construction Line.

We would also like to select from these three, rather than going through a full public advertisement, because we require their advice before the deadline of 24 June, including at least two weeks for them to work up designs.

If we are successful in our Sea Change bid then a full tender process must be carried out to select the delivery partner for the real physical work, including any further design.

Recommendation

The exemption to standing orders already granted be noted, it having been made to enable the project team to select the design advice from the list of candidates presented here, within a timescale to meet the 24 June deadline.

a) Reasons for Recommendation

The Sea Change funding represents critical funding for the projects in Seaton and Exmouth, and without it the projects would not move forward until alternative funding has been identified.

The Exmouth and Seaton projects have recently hit a funding challenge due to circumstances beyond their control (the loss of RDA funding, and of ASDA match funding in March 2009). This has left very little time to prepare for a Sea Change bid we were not expecting to make without the structure of the developer supported project.

b) Alternative Options

With the timescale of 24 June we do not think there are any other options if we are to meet the requirements of the bid process.

c) Risk Considerations

- The selected candidates have not been vetted by Construction Line so we do not hold their credit history
- That by not publicly advertising the contract we may have missed a candidate that could have provided better value for money

The risk of not granting exemption is that we will miss the deadline for a potential £2million funding to complete the projects in Seaton and Exmouth

d) Policy and Budgetary Considerations

The pre-development budget has this amount already committed for spending on design and development of the project, and so there are no budgetary risks

e) Date for Review of Decision

June

1 Main Body of the Report

EDDC and DCC are both preparing Sea Change bids for Seaton and Exmouth respectively. The deadline for the bids is 30 June and we need specialist expertise to help us provide the information required by the bid. The value of the bids is a total of £2 million, which in both cases is critical funding to allow the projects to be delivered to the communities.

An exhibit/exhibition design specialist is needed to provide costings and outline designs for the project before 24 June. There are no suitable suppliers on constructionline, so we request permission to select three candidates from peer projects where experience and expertise is proven. These candidates have been involved in peer projects, delivering the same services for the same kind of visitor attraction. The candidates we would like to invite to tender are;

- 1) the Natural History Museum in London,
- 2) Imagemakers in Bristol
- 3) Smith and Jones in Plymouth.

We need this design work done in order to meet a deadline of 24 June in order to be able to apply for a £2million bid under the Sea Change scheme - and so need an exemption from the longer tender process involving a public advertisement. We would like to seek three quotes from these organisations known to the project team as having the required level of expertise.

If the Sea Change bid is successful and the actual project work needs to be undertaken, a fully advertised tender process would have to be completed for the final project. This tender relates only to the outline designs required for the Sea Change paperwork and bid process.

Legal Implications

Standing Orders require the exemption to be reported to Executive Board. The exemption was granted as permitted by Standing Orders.

Financial Implications

There is provision within the Visitor Centre budget to cover this expenditure.

Consultation on Reports to the Executive

The Sea Change application has been discussed with Exmouth and Seaton Jurassic Coast Board, Exmouth Visitor Centre Trust, Seaton Visitor Centre Trust, Exmouth Regeneration Board and Devon County Council officers – all with positive support. The application has also been discussed with the Arts Council England, SWRDA, CABE, Museums and Libraries Association

Background Papers

Seachange application and guidance notes
