

Agenda Item

Executive Board

31 October 2007

07/7008



Request for Exemption to Standing Orders to progress the response to a request for further design information on the Seaton Visitor Gateway Centre

Summary

The Council has been requested to provide fuller design details for the Seaton Visitor Gateway Centre to inform the re-submission of an outline planning application for the Seaton Regeneration Area. Exemption is sought to instruct architects (Forum Design Group), originally commissioned by Locum Consulting, to revisit their work on the Seaton Visitor Gateway Centre to ensure that its' physical relationship to other features identified for future development within the Seaton Regeneration Area are compatible and consistent with the vision for this important facility. This information is required as a matter of some urgency.

Recommendation

To note that there is an exemption from Standing Orders

a) Reasons for Recommendation

The reasons are detailed in the body of the report

b) Alternative Options

No cost or time efficient alternative has been identified.

c) Risk Considerations

The Council's failure to respond fully to a request for technical information to inform the refinement of proposals for the Seaton Regeneration Area could seriously weaken the prospects for the successful delivery of this project

d) Policy and Budgetary Considerations

The cost of this commission will be met from funding available in the 2007/08 Planning Development Grant budget.

e) Date for Review of Decision

The progress of the Seaton Visitor Gateway Centre proposal and of proposals for the Seaton Regeneration Area as a whole, will be the subject of a fuller report to the Executive Board before the end of the year.

1 Main Body of the Report

- 1.1 In April 2005, Locum Consulting was commissioned by the Council (on behalf of the Dorset and East Devon World Heritage Coast, Seaton Project Steering Group) to carry out a feasibility assessment for the development of an interpretation / education centre in Seaton; referred to as the Seaton Visitor Gateway Centre. Locum Consulting engaged the services of the Forum Design Group to provide specific master planning and urban design related inputs to this study.
- 1.2 The Council has been requested to provide fuller details of the design and layout of the Seaton Visitor Gateway Centre to inform the re-submission of an Outline Planning Application for the Seaton Regeneration Area in the course being prepared by agents acting for Liatris Holdings Ltd.
- 1.3 To refine the design and specification of the Seaton Visitor Centre Gateway and its position in relation to other proposals for the south western quadrant of the Seaton Regeneration Area, it is time and cost efficient to build on the knowledge and experience of the Forum Design Group. They will be instructed by the Corporate Director Environment to undertake the necessary refinement of their work for Locum Consulting. Accordingly an exemption to Standing Orders is sought to enable this study to be completed and outcome used to inform the proposals of Liatris Holdings Ltd.
- 1.4 The cost of this work is not expected to exceed £10,000.

Legal Implications

The correct internal procedures having been followed there are no legal implications requiring comment

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications other than those contained within the report

Consultation on Reports to the Executive

N/A

Background Papers

- Seaton Visitor Gateway Centre: Options Appraisal and Preliminary Feasibility Review, Locum Consulting, August 2005
- Minutes of the Executive Board 19th October 2005

Nigel Harrison Ext 2606
Economic Development Manager

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