

# Chichester District Council

CABINET

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## Coastal Community Team Projects

### 1. Contacts

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### 2. Recommendation

**2.1. To approve funding of £13,000 from general fund reserves to provide the balance of funding following the £10,000 Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Coastal Community Team award, to enable delivery of the Coastal Community Team projects:**

**(a) Selsey Haven Feasibility Study**

**(b) Demographic and Employment Development Study for Selsey and East Wittering & Bracklesham**

### 3. Background

3.1. Chichester District Council, working with Selsey Town Council and other members of the Manhood Peninsula Partnership, has been awarded £10,000 by the DCLG to become one of 116 Coastal Community Teams in a national government effort to regenerate coastal areas. The new coastal team – the Peninsula Coastal Economy Team - will be affiliated to the existing Manhood Peninsula Partnership.

3.2. The £10,000 award will partially fund two DCLG approved projects:

(a) Feasibility Study for a small harbour in Selsey (Selsey Haven).

(b) Demographic and Employment Development Study for Selsey and East Wittering & Bracklesham.

3.3. The studies are an essential step in establishing whether Selsey Haven is a viable project, and in clarifying the demographic and economic issues affecting different sectors on the Manhood Peninsula.

- 3.4. The Council would like to see better protection for the fishing industry in Selsey and to encourage its growth.

This aim is expressed in Priority 4, section 4.4, from the Chichester District Council Economic Development Strategy 2013-2019. The stated activity is to 'better understand opportunities for developing and growing the District's marine and coastal related activities, linked to their strengths in the Solent area and improving and diversifying the retail and leisure offer in coastal locations'.

- 3.5. The Haven will build on the traditional small boat fishing industry in Selsey and will be a focus for the economy of the Peninsula. The project has been favoured by many in the locality for a number of years but no definitive studies have been undertaken to assess its viability. A summary of the project and the work undertaken to date, is included at the Appendix. The funding provides an opportunity to assess viability or suggest alternatives to the Council.

#### **4. Outcomes to be achieved**

- 4.1. Outcomes for the community will be the development of Selsey and East Wittering & Bracklesham as attractive locations for existing businesses, and identifying how they can flourish as centres for new business start-ups outside the city of Chichester. The outcomes will be measured and monitored via a timetable and workplan.
- 4.2. Outputs (see the Appendix for details) from the Selsey Haven project will be:
  - (a) An assessment of the technical issues involved in developing a haven
  - (b) A consultation and scoping document including an outline specification for any future tender and recommendations for funding sources. The document will cover several options prepared by specialists and will cover a range of issues including environmental and coastal process matters
  - (c) High level construction cost estimates
  - (d) Input from all key stakeholders including Crown Estates and Natural England who will be invited to participate in a workshop meeting
  - (e) A statement will be produced describing the best way to proceed.
- 4.3. The demographic and employment development report for Selsey and East Wittering/Bracklesham will:
  - (a) Establish the quality of employment opportunities, education and training in Selsey and East Wittering/Bracklesham
  - (b) Quantify the impacts of seasonality on Selsey and E. Wittering and Bracklesham
  - (c) Identify a schedule of realistic actions
  - (d) Identify funding schemes supporting economic growth
- 4.4. Economic opportunities will be created by identifying projects that regenerate historic assets, or create new economic assets which can unlock potential funding from the new Coastal Community Fund (available later this year).

- 4.5. Council contributions to the Feasibility Study will count as match funding, which will be viewed favourably at a later stage should funding be sought from Europe.
- 4.6. The projects fulfil corporate priorities in the Sustainable Community Strategy for:
  - (a) Economy: a strong local economy where businesses can grow and thrive; employees with good skills relevant to local employers.
  - (b) Environment: managing a changing environment; environmental resources.
- 4.7. The projects fulfil priorities in the Council's Economic Development Strategy 2013-2019: to attract and retain working age talent; create conditions to support growth oriented businesses; make best use of the district's natural and cultural assets.
- 4.8. The projects further support the objectives under the Economy priority of the Council's Corporate Plan:
  - Promote commercial activity and economic growth
  - Promote Chichester District as a visitor and cultural destination
  - Promote the city and town centres as vibrant places to do business

## **5. Proposal**

- 5.1. The first stage of the project is a feasibility study to investigate the physical viability, costs and benefits of constructing a small harbour (haven) on the Selsey coast. The location will be between Selsey Lifeboat Station and East Beach Green. The Selsey Haven project aims to:
  - (a) Generate economic benefits for the town
  - (b) Protect and enhance the fisheries and fishermen's livelihood
  - (c) Create economic opportunities for the visitor economy across the Peninsula
  - (d) Provide coast protection on a section of the Selsey Coast, thus reducing the need to seek funding for defence works at the specified location
- 5.2. The economic challenges on the Manhood Peninsula can be seen elsewhere along the Sussex coast but are particularly apparent in Selsey and East Wittering/Bracklesham. Data is needed to identify current demographic trends to inform recommendations for economic development on the Peninsula. The most recent work was undertaken in 2010 by Tourism South East, but the report only examined the tourism sector. A new demographic and employment development report will identify cross sector economic weaknesses and opportunities, including benefits to be gained from Selsey Haven, and will enable businesses and local authorities to make better judgements about the management necessary for sustaining the local economy and environment.
- 5.3. Cabinet is asked to approve funding of £13,000 from general fund reserves to support the new Peninsula Coastal Economy Team in its efforts to seek economic improvements and benefits for communities on the Manhood Peninsula, through delivery of the Selsey Haven Feasibility Study and the Peninsula Demographic and Employment Development Study.
- 5.4. The Coastal Community Teams funding must be spent by March 2016.

## **6. Alternatives that have been considered**

- 6.1. Alternative funding sources from the European & Marine Fisheries Fund and the new Coastal Communities Fund have been considered. However, the funds are unlikely to be available until later this year. Waiting for the funds to be announced will jeopardise delivery of the reports in time for the spending deadline for the Coastal Community Teams funding by the end of March 2016.

## **7. Resource and legal implications**

- 7.1. Funding in addition to the £10k DCLG grant is set out in 5.1 above.
- 7.2. The Selsey Haven Feasibility Study will show whether it is possible to construct a small harbour at Selsey together with the costs of running and maintaining it. Should the project progress further a full business plan will be prepared in order that the Council can finalise its investment decision.
- 7.3. The studies are estimated, based on preliminary quotes, to cost a total of £23,000 (Selsey Haven £18k; Demographic Study £5k) of which £10,000 has been contributed by the DCLG leaving a balance of £13k.
- 7.4. The work will be undertaken by the Manhood Peninsula Partnership Project Officer in conjunction with the Council's Economic Development Service.
- 7.5. Property implications - existing arrangements are adequate. The Council currently leases the foreshore from Crown Estate. The Crown Estate does not foresee difficulties in extending the lease to include Selsey Haven.

## **8. Consultation**

- 8.1. Those below were consulted and gave their support:
  - (a) Internal – Economic Development Service, Coastal & Land Drainage
  - (b) External – Selsey Town Council, Selsey Fishermen's Association, Ventnor Haven (IW Council), and the Manhood Peninsula Partnership support the Selsey Haven Feasibility Study (further details can be found at the Appendix). Selsey Town Council, East Wittering & Bracklesham Parish Council, and Manhood Peninsula Partnership support the Demographic and Employment Development Study.
  - (c) The Crown Estate and Environment Agency were asked for their initial thoughts about a small harbour at Selsey. The Environment Agency wants to see a plan before they can comment fully. They will have many questions but had no initial objections. Crown Estate had no initial objections and viewed the feasibility study as a positive step.
  - (d) All statutory bodies, including the above, will be consulted fully.
  - (e) Members consulted include Cllr Barrow, Cllr Keegan and Cllr Connor.

## **9. Community impact and corporate risks**

- 9.1. Corporate and community risks are minimal because the outcomes will be recommendations rather than actions.

## 10. Other Implications

<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	None
<b>Climate Change</b>	None
<b>Human Rights and Equality Impact</b>	None
<b>Safeguarding</b>	None

## 11. Appendix

11.1. Appendix - Selsey Haven Feasibility Study - Background Briefing Paper

## 12. Background Papers

12.1. None