

Committee:	Executive	Agenda Item No.:	10.
Date:	12 <sup>th</sup> December 2011	Status	Open
Category	2. Decision within the functions of Executive		
Subject:	Aiming High Capital Grant – replacement jetty at Pleasley Vale Outdoor Activity Centre		
Report by:	Special Projects Officer / Outdoor Recreation Officer		
Other Officers Involved	Head of Leisure		
Director	Director of Health and Wellbeing		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor A. Syrett, Portfolio Holder for Social Inclusion		

#### **RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS**

COMMUNITY SAFETY – Ensuring that communities are safe and secure by providing diversionary activities for local young people.

ENVIRONMENT – Promoting and enhancing a clean and sustainable environment by repairing and enhancing the mill pond at Pleasley Vale

REGENERATION – Developing healthy, prosperous and sustainable communities by providing accessible leisure facilities

#### **TARGETS**

None

#### **VALUE FOR MONEY**

By obtaining best value under section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972

#### **THE REPORT**

Pleasley Vale Outdoor Activity Centre was established in 2001 at Pleasley Vale Business Park, which is owned and managed by Bolsover District Council. The centre was originally wholly based in the boathouse adjacent to the mill pond, which is used for a range of water based activities. In recent years, the centre has expanded into a recently refurbished building at the eastern end of Pleasley Vale (The Greaseworks) which provides office accommodation and acts as the operational base for the centre. The

refurbishment of The Greaseworks was largely externally funded with grants from the New Opportunities Fund and the Coalfields Regeneration Trust.

Despite the investment in The Greaseworks there has been limited investment in the outdoor centre. A temporary jetty was installed in 2006, but this has proved to be unsatisfactory and is no longer safe to use. In addition, the mill pond has a leak in the headwall which has resulted in a significant drop in water level to a point where it is no longer possible to canoe or kayak on the mill pond, which has a knock on effect on the operation of the outdoor activity centre and its ability to generate income.

The continuation of water based activities at Pleasley Vale will only be possible if the mill pond is repaired and the jetty replaced with one that is both permanent and fully accessible.

Consultants have recently identified a range of options for the repair and re-watering of the mill pond and it is hoped that work will be carried out over the next few months. Initial estimates suggest that the cost of repairing the pond is between £6,000 (sealing the off-take channel, repairing the outlet pipe, sealing areas of undercutting and re-pointing the masonry crest wall) and £16,000 (if additional low pressure grouting is required).

An opportunity to invest further external funding became available in the autumn of 2011 when Derbyshire County Council invited bids for Aiming High for Disabled Children grant funding to fund projects that provided facilities for disabled children and their families.

A bid for £93,500 was submitted in September 2011, based on an indicative costing for a scheme including a replacement jetty, associated boat ramp, floating pontoon and a pedestrian / disabled access bridge. Unfortunately, this bid was initially unsuccessful.

However, Leisure Services was subsequently contacted in early November with an offer of funding. The acceptance of this offer will depend on the mitigation of a number of potential risks and the necessary approval from Executive.

Since submitting the original funding application, a revised scheme has been proposed that provides better disabled access by relocating the proposed footbridge and slipway, lengthening the jetty / pontoon and providing a disabled access ramp. However, the revised scheme had not been fully costed at the time of submission of this report. Additional information will be provided at the meeting.

The scheme is designed to provide an accessible jetty for canoeing, kayaking and other water based activities on the mill pond adjacent to Mill 1 as part of the ongoing development of the outdoor activity centre. Subject to cost and available funding the proposed Works include:

- Removal of the existing jetty on the mill pond, which is no longer safe for use
- Construction of a new 24m long concrete jetty
- Construction of a concrete slipway for launching canoes / kayaks
- Installation of floating pontoons
- Installation of a hoist for disabled users
- Construction of a disabled access ramp to the jetty / pontoon
- Relocation of the existing 30' storage container to a point further along the bank
- Installation of a 12m x 1.8m universal beam steel pedestrian / disabled access bridge over the River Meden on the site of a derelict wooden footbridge (this will be removed)
- Construction of concrete or tarmac link paths to link the bridge to the car park and along the top of the bank from the bridge / boat store to the existing boathouse

In order to progress the project it is necessary to secure planning permission and other approvals (e.g. Environment Agency) as a first step. The site has been surveyed, drawings have been produced and both a planning application and application for Environment Agency consent were submitted in November 2011, which are currently being considered. The cost of the site survey, drawings, structural calculations and planning application were funded by Leisure Services from existing budgets.

Should the cost of the whole scheme be significantly more than the available budget, it may prove necessary to revise the scheme and remove certain elements (e.g. the pedestrian footbridge). However, the replacement jetty is the key element of the scheme and this will be retained. It may be necessary to complete some elements of the scheme at a later date using additional external funding as part of a second phase.

A photograph of the existing jetty and a plan of the proposed jetty are attached to this report.

Contractors have been identified that can undertake all of the necessary works and supply / install the floating pontoons. However, due to the value of the contract it will be necessary to go out to tender for the works.

Subject to securing planning permission and other consents, contracts will need to be let and works will need to be completed by the end of March 2012 in order to comply with the terms of the funding.

Following the presentation of a similar report to Cabinet, discussions have taken place with a contractor who is prepared to accept responsibility for completion of the project, provided that planning permission and other consents are in place to allow sufficient time for them to be reasonably expected to complete the works by the end of March 2012, and subject to them being awarded the contract.

## **ISSUES/OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

The existing jetty is in need of replacement in the very near future and the cost of this would need to be funded from the Council's own resources or external funding if the Aiming High grant were not accepted.

The timescale for completion is tight, but is achievable subject to securing planning permission and other consents and awarding a contract in time to allow work to start in mid-January 2012.

However, due to the time of year when the work is to be undertaken and the unpredictable nature of the weather, it is possible that a prolonged period of sub-zero temperatures would stop work on site, with the possibility of work not being completed by the end of March 2012.

In light of this, the funders (Derbyshire County Council) will take a reasonable approach according to individual circumstances. In general, invoices against specific completed pieces of work will be paid, subject to an interim invoice for work completed being submitted and assurances provided that the remainder of the work would be done and funded elsewhere.

It would also be acceptable to revise plans for the project (if this proved necessary) if it was agreed that the primary aims of the project for which the budget had been allocated would still be achieved.

Should it prove impossible to secure planning permission and other necessary consents in time for the project to be completed by the end of March 2012, it may prove necessary to decline the offer of funding. Derbyshire County Council is aware that this may happen and have asked to be informed as soon as it becomes apparent that the project cannot proceed, so that the funding can be reallocated.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

- Risk: If the project is not fully completed by 31 March 2012, the Aiming High grant will only fund the percentage that has been completed. The remainder of the project will still need to be completed, e.g. if the project is 90% complete, the remaining 10% will need to be completed at no cost to the Council. Planning permission and other consents are not secured in time, meaning that the funding has to be declined.
- Financial: Savings on future replacements costs of the existing jetty to the Council  
Costs associated with non-completion of the project (i.e. the shortfall)
- Legal: Ensuring compliance with the Council's Financial Regulations.

Human Resources: None

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. It is recommended that the offer a £93,500 Aiming High for Disabled Children grant be accepted.**
- 2. It is recommended that the tender process be streamlined to allow works to proceed without undue delay in accordance with contracts standing orders.**
- 3. It is recommended that should it become apparent that planning permission and other consents will not be granted in time for the project to be completed by 31 March 2012 (i.e. by mid-January 2012) that authority be given to the Director of Health and Wellbeing to decline the offer of funding .**
- 4. It is recommended that delegated powers be granted to the Head of Leisure to amend the scheme as necessary to deal with other risks, such as weather and increased costs.**

## **REASON FOR DECISION TO BE GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION**

In order to allow the development of an accessible jetty / floating pontoon at Pleasley vale Outdoor Activity Centre.

ATTACHMENTS: Photograph of the existing jetty / Plan of the proposed jetty.

FILE REFERENCE:

SOURCE DOCUMENT: