

OBAN CHORD UPDATE STATEMENT

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 Aim of Update

The purpose of this report is to bring the OLI Area Committee up to date with the progress that has been made and actions taken since the last Area Committee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Area Committee note the information provided.

3.0 UPDATE

3.1 **Public Realm: Further Upgrade of Amenity Lighting at McCaig's Tower**

The main project was completed in November 2013 with responsibility for the amenity lighting activity being given to Och Aye Events company on a one year operating agreement and the maintenance and management being handed over to the Council's Street Scene team.

An in use review and evaluation report will be undertaken in accordance with good practice. Target June 2014.

3.2 **Public Realm: Enhancement of Oban Bay from Stafford Street to Station Square including George Street**

Following the terms of the Committee's agreement to proceed with the preferred design option for the above on 9th April, 2014, Capita have been instructed to proceed with the preparation of a detailed design, submission of planning applications and preparation of contract documents for Phase 1 – Stafford Street, subject to Committee and Council approvals of the Full Business Case during September, 2014.

Transport Scotland/Capita Design Review: the design teams continue to discuss issues/ constraints and exchange available maintenance and construction programming information.

Target date for seeking planning approvals from PPSL– 20th August, 2014.

Target date for securing Detailed design and full business case approvals – September 2014.

Target date for beginning Stafford Street pedestrianisation works, subject to above approvals - October 2014.

3.3 Public Realm: Provision of Maritime Visitor Facility in North Pier Maritime Quarter (White Building)

Following the terms of the Committee's agreement to proceed with the preferred design option for the above on 9th April, 2014, Capita/Oberlanders have been instructed to proceed with the preparation of detailed design work for the preferred concept design option and prepare a planning application.

Target date for planning application to be determined by PPSL – 20th August.

Target date for securing Detailed design and full business case approval – September 2014.

Target date for a start on site – January 2015

3.4 Oban Bay Breakwater, Step Ashore and Transit Facility

The Head of Economic Development, CHORD Programme Manager and Oban Regeneration Project Manager had a constructive meeting with Highlands and Islands Enterprise on 17th April. It is anticipated that the necessary clarity to allow the Oban Regeneration Project Manager to progress with this will be obtained during Summer 2014.

3.5 North Pier Maritime Quarter – Maximising CHORD and potential TIF investments

Discussions are ongoing internally to secure resources for a design framework for the Council's North Pier asset and esplanade now that the Scottish Government has approved our TIF proposals. A separate report from the Head of Economic Development will come to Members for consideration in due course.

3.6 Potential EMFF Application (formerly known as EFF)

The Fisheries Grant Team of the Scottish Government has advised us that the next round will be entitled the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). The first step is for the Government to ensure that the Regulations are signed off. This is anticipated shortly. Applications could then be accepted by the end of 2014 or early 2015. The timetable remains vague. We will advise members accordingly when more information is available.

3.7 Oban Bay Harbour Development Authority

Fisher Associates have been appointed to review options for a single Harbour Authority, and a project report is anticipated during May 2014.

The consultants have been briefed by the Oban Regeneration Project Manager about proposed regeneration investments in the Bay and a

regular dialogue is taking place.

3.8 Social and Economic Impact Assessment/s (SEIAs) for Public Realm Projects

SEIAs have to be prepared as part of the formulation of the Full Business Cases to be presented along with requests for the capital to implement the two public realm projects for which designs are being developed: i.e. the North Pier Visitor Facility and the Oban Bay Public Realm Enhancement Scheme. Tender invitations were sent out to 5 firms with a deadline for submissions of midday on 31st March. Three submissions were received and after an assessment of the tenders Peter Brett Associates, Glasgow, were appointed on 11th April 2014 and took part in a commissioning meeting in Oban during 15/16th April.

An online and on site business survey was undertaken during May, with assistance from BID4Oban and a progress review meeting is scheduled with the Oban Regeneration Manager on 3rd June.

The cost of this work will come from the CHORD central budget and will therefore not deplete the implementation budgets for the above Oban projects.

Target date for final SEIA reports to be submitted to Oban Regeneration Project Manager – 30th June, 2014

4.0 General

- 4.1 Linda Houston continues to liaise with the Community Council, BID4Oban, local businesses and other stakeholders on a regular basis.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 This paper brings the OLI Area Committee up to date with the Oban Waterfront Enhancement projects.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 POLICY

The delivery of the TIF and CHORD Programme fits with the Council's Corporate Plan, SOA and approved Development Plan policy for town centre regeneration.

6.2 FINANCIAL

The Oban Bay/Harbour CHORD Interim Business Case has approved £1.84 million; additional approvals are required to drawdown remaining monies.

6.3 LEGAL

Each of the CHORD projects requires differing levels of legal resources to ensure their timely delivery.

6.4 EQUALITY

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken for Oban Bay Harbour

6.5 **CUSTOMER SERVICE**
Please see Programme Plan

6.6 **RISK**
Please see Programme Plan

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27th May, 2014

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