

REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub Committee

DATE: 8th July 2010

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Environment and Economy

SUBJECT: Widnes Waterfront, Arts Project Contract

WARDS: Halton View

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Board in accordance with Standing Orders Relating to Finance 5.1.5. of an increase in expenditure on the Widnes Waterfront Arts Project contract, estimated to be 20%.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That this report is accepted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Widnes Waterfront Arts Project was the construction of a significant piece of artwork known as the 'Future Flower' and is located at Widnes Waterfront. The Northwest Development Agency (NWDA) funding for the project was approved in principle by the Urban Renewal SSP, subject to the final NWDA project appraisal, on 21st April, 2009.
- 3.2 Funding for the project was subsequently secured from the NWDA as part of the 2009-2010 Widnes Waterfront Performance Plan. The tender process for design work was based on cost estimates provided by external consultants with experience in the foundation construction and the fabrication of public art. The deadline for tender submission was 5th August, 2009 and the Letter of Intent was issued for the winning tender on 9th November 2009.
- 3.3 Following the tender process, the contract for the fabrication and construction of the Widnes Future Flower was awarded to Cheetham Hill Construction (CHC) for the agreed tender sum of £125,800.56.
- 3.4 Since the tender process, it has been necessary for the contractor to include a further two items of work not originally budgeted for due to a lack of information at the time of tendering. These were:-

Re-inforcement of a footbridge, which formed part of the access route to the site – works included traffic management, provision of re-inforcement materials and construction of a temporary diversion route. The Council had no up-to-date records of allowable bridge loads and the decision was therefore taken to err on the side of caution and to ask the

Contractor to reinforce the bridge to ensure it could take the weight of the construction traffic.

Cost: £6,954.00

Construction of a maintenance track to and around the base of the Future Flower from the existing footpath. This incorporates an 'ecoblock' surface to maintain the natural look of the area surrounding the Flower. This track is necessary to allow quick and easy access for the Council's Open Spaces and Street Lighting maintenance teams, which will be responsible for future maintenance. Originally the architect had assumed that the Council would be able to access inspection machinery which wouldn't require a hard standing to operate in a safe manor. However, the Council felt that a 24/7 access track around the Flower base would help to minimise future maintenance costs as it would not need to hire in costly specialised machinery.

Cost: £19,142.42

- 3.5 These additional costs amount to £26,096.42, approximately 20% above the original tender costs. This cost has been funded using the original NWDA funding contingency sum of £15,199, together with £10,897.42 from the existing allocation of Widnes Waterfront Capital funding.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The current over-spend of approximately £26,000 has been met from within the NWDA funding allocation for the Arts Project and Widnes Waterfront Capital funding.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

- 6.1 None.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 The additional items were necessary to achieve a safe, high quality scheme within the required timeframe. Not carrying out any of these items would have compromised one or more of these factors.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 8.1 None.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Various Files	Business Development and Regional Affairs Division	Sarah Munikwa