Western Area Committee Funding Scheme – Member proposal form 2022-23

| Title of project | Bredgar and Hartlip Conservation Area Reviews | | |
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| Proposer (Area Committee Member) | Councillor Mike Baldock | | |
| Relevant Heads of Service/Lead officer | Flo Churchill and Simon Algar | | |
| Project Proposal | Western Area Committee would like to bring forward the Conserva Area Reviews for Bredgar and Hartlip. | | |
| | The proposal is to appoint an external consultant to carry out these reviews. Three quotes were sought and received, and are as follows: | | |
| | Peter Bell - £8,400 (excluding expenses, VAT will not be applicable) Arup - £15,500 (not including any VAT which will be applicable) Purcell - £27,780 (not including any VAT which will be applicable) | | |
| | Peter Bell clearly offers the most cost-effective option, but due to the software he uses (MS Word), this places an extra burden on officers around editing the picture and map-heavy documents into professional looking and fully accessible documents using professional editing software. | | |
| | The fees quoted are based on the work commencing in October. Fees all three consultants invited to submit a fee proposal for this review work could increase if we were to significantly push back the work commencement date, e.g., to the next financial year, any increase would not be significant. | | |
| Anticipated officer resource required | Although the reviews will be carried out by a consultant, the work needs to be managed by the Conservation & Design Team (of Simon Algar and Jhilmil Kishore) who currently do have an extremely high workload and the capacity to take on any further work over and above that set out in the Heritage Strategy Initial 3-year Action Plan does not exist, also taking into account the service provided to the development management teams, and the extra unprogrammed work already taken on and which is in the process of being finished off. Starting this autumn, the team will still have the following programmed work to begin and manage: Faversham and Preston-next-Faversham CA Review, Newington Parish CA's Review, Milton Regis CA, Cellar Hill & Green St CA Review, Swale Local List, Curtilage Listed Buildings List, Sheerness Port Heritage at Risk Project, completion of Archaeological Heritage Topic paper, start and completion of Industrial Heritage and Aviation & Defence heritage topic papers, production of at least one update to the Swale 2020 baseline Heritage at Risk Register (it was anticipated that this would be update annually). It is advised in the circumstances that consideration be given to prioritising the review of Bredgar and Hartlip CAs in the next 3-year action plan starting in autumn 2023, although this will need to be considered in parallel with other work some of which may feasibly be considered a higher priority, including review of the at-risk Upchurch CA. | | |
| Cost £ | £8,400 minimum (It is appreciated that WAC funding to cover or towards the cost of carrying out this work will or may not be available from the start of the new financial year, but it may be possible to cover the cost of doing this work from existing service budgets. Alternatively, consideration might be given to carrying out the review work in house depending on the extent of the team resource come autumn 2023. | | |

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| Planned Start Date | October 2023 | | | |
| Due Date for Completion (<i>Please note the funding will need to be spent by May 2023</i>) | January/February 2024 | | | |
| Please note there is a requirement to consult with the relevant Head of Service to ensure this proposal does not conflict with strategic priorities and will not put undue pressure on officer resource. | | | | |
| Agreed by relevant Head of Service (Name, date and signature) | Flo Churchill | | | |
| | Flo Churchill 18.08.22 | | | |