

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

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| 1. | <b>Meeting:</b>     | <b>Cabinet Member and Advisers for Business Growth and Regeneration</b>                                   |
| 2. | <b>Date:</b>        | <b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014</b>   |
| 3. | <b>Title:</b>       | <b>CAMINO (Climate Adaptation Mainstreaming using Innovative Methods) – Proposed Extension of Project</b> |
| 4. | <b>Directorate:</b> | <b>Environment and Development Services</b>   |

### 5. Summary

- 5.1 This report notes the success of a further bid for EU funding under the Interreg IVB, North Sea Region Programme, for an extension of the previously approved CAMINO project from March 2015 to March 2016 (administrative closure); and seeks approval to proceed with this extension.
- 5.2 The report also seeks exemption from the Standing Order 47 (Contracts valued at less than £50,000 – Sheffield University's quote is £22,491) in order to extend the appointment of the University of Sheffield as the Councils technical advisers for the project on the grounds that:
- (i). The University of Sheffield successfully tendered for the original award of CAMINO funding.
  - (ii). That during the original tendering process it became apparent that the University of Sheffield is the only academic institution capable of delivering the project to conclusion.
  - (iii). Notwithstanding (ii) above, it would be incongruous to engage with two separate contractors on such a relatively small scale project in addition to which engaging with a separate contractor would not represent value for money.
  - (iv). The contract with the University of Sheffield for delivery of the original CAMINO project contains provision for the extension of the contract and does not involve any material change in the content.

### 6. Recommendations

- 6.1 **Cabinet Member endorses the extension of CAMINO in order to continue the work already delivered in this subject area**
- 6.2 **That the appointment of the University of Sheffield as the Council's technical partner for delivery of this project be approved and that accordingly an exemption from Standing Order 47 (Contracts valued at less than £50,000) be approved.**

## 7. Proposals and Details

Cabinet Member will be aware that authorisation to commence this project, was issued under Item 34, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2013, report to the former Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development.

In its original format, the project sought to build on the success of previous flood alleviation/climate change programmes by expanding the Councils knowledge and involvement from purely flood related issues (which had been the subject of earlier programmes in which the Council had participated) to the wider climate change agenda and participating with larger stakeholders. CAMINO's original objectives were:

- Establishing the extent of climate change knowledge within local authorities and developing this knowledge base further; whilst at the same time encouraging better internal communications between staff involved in climate change issues. Ultimately this should place the Council in a better position to bid for future funding under the climate change agenda and registrations of interest have already been submitted under the upcoming Interreg V Programme.
- Developing climate adaptation business cases in order to address development problems caused by climate change. In Rotherhams case, this will enable the Council to further investigate the feasibility of flood defence works throughout the Borough as well as focusing on issues such as the multiplicity of waterway uses, including, recreation, green energy provision and bio diversity.
- Sustain and expand Learning and Action Alliance's established under MARE, enabling them to reach a wider trans-national audience and expand their knowledge into the wider field of climate change. International stakeholders will include the likes of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Under the proposed extension to the project, outputs from all previous flood alleviation/climate change projects funded by the EU under the Interreg IVb programme will be incorporated, together with the outputs of CAMINO, into one convenient web site to be known as MART (Managing Adaptive Responses in Towns and Cities). This will then form one single repository for use by any local authority or agency throughout the EU wishing to seek access to the widening climate change agenda. The pages will also provide links to the more detailed descriptions contained within the web pages of contributing projects.

The extension will also enable the Council to further develop bids for funding under the upcoming EU Interreg V programme, which amongst other proposals, focuses on various aspects of climate change including mainstream climate change planning, multiple use of rivers & water-ways & developing community resilience in the face of climate change, potential disasters & the need for emergency planning.

The extension will also enable the Council to link directly with major international agencies involved in climate change issues such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives & UN-International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. Under the original proposal for CAMINO this would have been restricted to the production of a short written guide; under the extension this is extended to include providing the projects findings on the official web site & presenting the findings direct to organisations such as the above.

Beyond involving the Council in exciting and pioneering work on the subject matter, the advent of this web site will also accelerate the original three objectives of the CAMINO project (see above).

The Council's partners in this undertaking will include City of Dordrecht, Netherlands; City of Bergen, Norway; the Dutch & Belgian National Water Boards and academic support from the Universities of Sheffield & Hamburg, Germany.

## **8. Finance**

The original award to Rotherham MBC for the CAMINO project was 95,000 EURO's, with the Council being required to provide staff time as match for European funding under the Interreg Programme as a full partner, hence in-kind staff time will support funding at 50% of total costs.

This award has now been increased to 155,000 EURO's, hence an in-kind staff time contribution of 77,500 EURO's is necessary. This has been identified from existing staff in the Environment and Development Service who will support the project work.

The time-table for delivery of the project has been extended from March 2015 to March 2016 (for administrative conclusion).

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

The main risk of not participating in the CAMINO extension is that Rotherham may not be able to influence the issues in respect of the research work being developed and will begin to lose experience in the fields of flood alleviation and climate change. Involvement will ensure that the Council is well-placed to participate in the upcoming Interreg Round V Programme (2015-2020).

## **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

Developing plans and implementing measures to reduce the risk of flooding is a key policy in the Corporate Plan. In addition the work described in this report is supportive to European Union (Floods Directive 2007/60/EC); UK National (2010 Flood and Water management Act); and Regional (Environment Agency National/Regional Strategy 2011) legislation/directives.

In addition, this programme of work is supportive to the regeneration of the Town Centre, which is a significant corporate priority to the Council and its ambition to create a vibrant place for people to live, work and visit as outlined in the Community Strategy.

## **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

Item 34, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2013, Report to the former Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development. MARE (Managing Adaptive Responses to the Environment) – Closure of Project; and CAMINO (Climate Adaptation Management) – Proposed Advent of Project.

Legal Services has been consulted as to the requested suspension of Standing Orders & their comments have been incorporated into this report.

Financial Services has also been consulted & have no concerns over the financial implications of the project.

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