

Ref:

Called in

Yes/No

**THE THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**RECORD OF DECISION OF CABINET**

Cabinet Member

Councillor Rick Everitt

Relevant Portfolio:

Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Strategy and Transformation

Date of Decision:

26 September 2024

Subject:

Mechanical Dredging Contract

Key Decision

Yes

In Forward Plan

Yes

Brief summary of matter:

The council is a Statutory Harbour Authority and has a duty to maintain the Port of Ramsgate and Ramsgate Harbour. The report proposes that a key decision be approved to award a term contract for mechanical dredging at the Port of Ramsgate and Ramsgate Royal Harbour. This routine maintenance dredging will be funded via an existing recurring revenue budget of £145,500. The estimated value of the contract will be £72,750 per year over a maximum contract term of 5 years (core term of 3 years with potential for a 2 year extension), making a total estimated contract value of £363,750.

Decision made:

Cabinet agreed the following:

1. The key decision to award a contract with a value in excess of £250,000 for mechanical dredging at the Port of Ramsgate and Ramsgate Royal Harbour, following a procurement exercise;
2. That the Director of Environment, having sought advice from legal services, agree the final terms of any contract award and sign the contract with the successful bidder.

Reasons for decision:

An Executive Decision is required because the project involves incurring expenditure anticipated to be £250,000 or above.

Alternatives considered and why rejected:

The council could have decided to undertake a reduced volume of dredging in the Port of Ramsgate and the Ramsgate Royal Harbour but this would overtime limit the size of craft able to access the port and harbour. It would also substantially reduce revenue and increase operational risk and liability in the event of vessel groundings. This option would also increase the risk of a breach of the Open Port duty which would expose the

council to legal risk and potential claims and litigation. For this reason this option was not taken forward as a recommendation.

Details of any conflict of interest declared by any executive Member who has been consulted and of any dispensation granted by the Standards Committee:

None

Author of Officer report:

Tony Marmo, Head of Coastal and Public Realm

Background papers

Cabinet Report Sep 24 - Mechanical Dredging - Google Docs  
Appendix 1 - Mechanical Dredging Equality Impact Assessment - Google Docs

Statement if decision is an urgent one and therefore not subject to call-in:

None

Last date for call in: 4 October 2024