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## **Eyemouth Harbour Operations and Maintenance Project – Update on the Proposed Dive Shore Access Road for Recreational Divers**

**Joint Report by Executive Director, Corporate Improvement and  
Economy and Service Director, Assets & Infrastructure**

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### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**1 December 2020**

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#### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This paper provides elected members with an update on the Eyemouth Operations and Maintenance Project Neart na Gaoithe offshore windfarm and specifically on the funding and construction of the proposed dive shore access road for recreational divers, which is a key condition of the recently approved planning application.

#### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Executive Committee:-**
- a) Agrees that the Dive Shore Access Road should be constructed by SB Contracts as part of the Eyemouth Operations and Maintenance Contract;**
  - b) Approves funding of £125k from the revenue roads budget to allow works at the Dive Shore Access Road to proceed**
  - c) Agrees for £125k to be allocated from the Capital Emergency and Unplanned Schemes fund to the Roads Block within 2020/21 to fund eligible capital works which are being re-allocated from the revenue budget to accommodate the project.**

#### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Earlier this year, planning permission was granted to Eyemouth Harbour Trust for a new Operations & Maintenance (O&M) base at Eyemouth Harbour to support the Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm. The O&M base will house office, warehousing and staff welfare facilities for the servicing of the wind farm.
- 3.2 The proposal has the potential to provide the town with significant economic benefits, including the prospect of direct and indirect employment opportunities and allows for the diversification of the existing harbour operations.

- 3.3 A key condition of the initial planning application was the requirement that vehicular access should be maintained to nearby popular diving sites at Greenends Gully and Nestends Gully during the construction and operational phases of the O&M base development.
- 3.4 Following discussions between Eyemouth Harbour Trust and Scottish Borders Council, it was agreed that a re-routing of the access road which is also known as the Dive Shore Road would be required to satisfy planning conditions outlined in the initial application. It was also agreed that Scottish Borders Council would design and help fund the new access road to help ensure the work related to the O&M base could be initiated.
- 3.5 Eyemouth Harbour Trust subsequently submitted a new planning application (20/01082/FUL) for a revised Dive Shore Access Road on 17 September 2020 and this application has recently been approved.

#### **4 CURRENT PROPOSAL**

- 4.1 The proposed new section of Dive Road will provide vehicular access to the popular dive sites and will be approximately 60 metres in length, with its width varying between 5.5m and 3.25m. The new road has been designed to facilitate access for emergency vehicles should they be required and it is proposed that this new section of road will be constructed by the Council's in-house construction team, SBc Contracts.
- 4.2 To fund the works from the revenue roads budget, by re-allocating eligible capital works from the revenue budget to the capital roads block within the current year.

#### **5 IMPLICATIONS**

##### **5.1 Financial**

- a) The cost of the new section of road has been estimated to be in the region of £145k, part funding of £20k is being provided by Eyemouth Harbour Trust.
- b) A contribution of £125k is required from the revenue roads budget to allow for the works at the Dive Shore Access Road to proceed.
- c) Allocate £125k from the Emergency & Unplanned Schemes fund to the Roads Block within capital to allow eligible capital works to take place which are being re-allocated from the revenue budget to allow this scheme to be funded.

##### **5.2 Risk and Mitigations**

There is a risk that if the Council does not support this proposal, there could be an adverse impact on the O&M project.

##### **5.3 Equalities**

A key aspect of Scottish Borders Council's work in relation to Economic Development is to reduce barriers to economic inequality and help ensure that information on service delivery in relation to equalities groups is constantly monitored.

**5.4 Acting Sustainably**

This proposal supports the development of a significant renewable energy project which will have a significant impact on sustainability.

**5.5 Carbon Management**

This proposal will ultimately have a significant impact on carbon production and will help the country meet targets on carbon emissions.

**5.6 Rural Proofing**

This proposal will provide a positive impact on Eyemouth and Berwickshire.

**5.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation**

There are no changes which are required to either the Scheme of administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of the proposals in this report.

**6 CONSULTATION**

6.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Service Director HR and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

6.2 The Corporate Management Team (CMT) have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

**Approved by**

**Executive Director, Corporate Improvement and Economy**

**Signature .....**

**Service Director, Assets & Infrastructure**

**Signature .....**

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**Background Papers:** None

**Previous Minute Reference:** None

**Note** – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. The contact can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

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