

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 07 March 2023

TITLE	Expansion of Capricorn Quay project	
Ward(s)	Hotwells and Harbourside and Central	
Author: David Towns	Job title: Harbour Operations Review Project Manager	
Cabinet lead: Mayor	Executive Director lead: Stephen Peacock, Executive Director Growth and Regeneration	
Proposal origin: BCC Staff		
Decision maker: Mayor Decision forum: Cabinet		
Purpose of Report:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To request approval to use £480,000 Green Recovery Fund (GRF) grant awarded to Bristol City Council by the West of England Combined Authority (WECA). The funding will be used to install floating eco-systems around new pontoons, providing an additional 34 berths in the harbour at Capricorn Quay. The initial Capricorn Quay project was approved by cabinet in December 2019. To provide approval for future bids to be submitted to WECA's Green Recovery Fund to undertake similar cost neutral projects in Bristol's Harbour (with a new funding round expected in Spring 2023). 		
Evidence Base:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bristol City Council has an aspiration for the floating harbour to be an asset for the benefit of the whole city, one which is financially sustainable, accessible and contributes to our wider aims of climate resilience and biodiversity. There is currently a waiting list for berths in the floating Harbour given Bristol's attractive harbour offer. Installing new berths will increase harbour income while addressing this demand for berths. Cabinet originally gave approval to install pontoons to provide additional berths, including washroom facilities at Capricorn Quay in 2019. However, the pandemic has delayed start of the work. The Harbour Authority has been consulted and is fully supportive of the proposals put forward in this report. In late July 2022, Bristol City Council were made aware of an opportunity for potential funding from WECA's Green Infrastructure Fund to install floating eco-systems around the new berths, using the original Capricorn Quay project as match funding. The floating eco-systems would improve water quality and provide new habitats for wildlife. It was agreed a bid would be submitted and retrospective approval sought, this item being brought to the Harbour Board Meeting on the 19 August. In late September 2022 Bristol City Council was informed that the bid for the WECA funding had been successful, and BCC were awarded £480,000 for the project to procure 700 sq metres of floating eco-systems, including supply, installation and ongoing maintenance. The Capricorn Quay Pontoon project scope and design requires amending to reflect the addition of the floating eco-systems. Combining the projects requires retrospective approval to accept the WECA funding, and for cabinet to agree the revised scope of the expanded project to now include floating ecosystems noting 		

that the expanded project has a budget of £1.5m. The scheme design has been amended to include sufficient floating eco-systems to meet the WECA award criteria, but work cannot proceed without approval to use the WECA money.

7. A request for Change (RFC) is being raised to amend the scope of the original Capricorn Quay project. There is sufficient project administrative funding within the WECA award to enable the additional work associated with procuring and managing installation of the floating eco-systems to be covered by existing project resources.
8. Further opportunities to apply for WECA funding for eco system projects in the harbour, are anticipated from April 2023. Bristol City Council will explore these opportunities to expand biodiversity in the harbour and enhance the cultural experience for citizens. To this end authority is being requested to make applications to WECA for such funding, to the maximum levels available (potentially exceeding £500k) without further reference to cabinet, noting that any awards will be accepted at cabinet.

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the revised scope of the Capricorn Quay project as outlined in this report.
2. Authorise the Executive Director for Growth and Regeneration, in consultation with the Mayor, to take all steps to accept and spend £480,000 of WECA funding to install floating eco-systems around new pontoons at Capricorn Quay.
3. Authorise the Executive Director for Growth and Regeneration, in consultation with the Mayor, to make further applications to WECA’s Green Infrastructure Fund for funding of eco system projects in the harbour (including for sums in excess of £500k).
4. Notes the Harbour Authority have been consulted and have ratified the proposals put forward by this report.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

1. Development and delivery- Delivering a fit for purpose service by increasing the income to support the aging floating harbour infrastructure
2. Environmental sustainability- Providing environmental enrichments and ecological additions to the harbour that will improve water quality and provide habitats for fish, birds and animals.
3. Equality and inclusion- Improve facilities and service to allow the area to become more diverse and inclusive

City Benefits:

1. The Corporate Strategy recognises the positive health effects of good quality and a well-maintained built environment, including providing effective support for business growth, as well as ensuring sites are safe and fit for purpose. Installation of floating ecosystems at Capricorn Quay will improve water quality and provide new habitats for wildlife.

Background Documents:

BCC bid for WECA GRF money

WECA award letter.

Capricorn Quay design, including positioning of floating eco-systems

[Cabinet 3 September 2019 Harbour Infrastructure Improvements and Technologies – Capital Investment Programme - report](#)

[Cabinet 3 September 2019 Harbour Infrastructure Improvements and Technologies – Capital Investment Programme - decision](#)

Revenue Cost	Nil	Source of Revenue Funding	Nil
Capital Cost	£480,000	Source of Capital Funding	WECA Green Recover Fund Grant
One off cost <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>

Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:		
1. Finance Advice:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The report is seeking approval to use £0.480m Green Recovery Fund (GRF) grant awarded to Bristol City Council by the West of England Combined Authority (WECA). b. This funding will be used to install floating eco-systems around new pontoons at Capricorn Quay. c. The funding is for a Capital project, so there is no General Fund implication for Bristol City Council. d. There is sufficient funding in the WECA grant to allow for the additional work to implement the eco-systems and the resources required. e. Any additional costs will need to be contained with the Harbour Service budget envelope or suitable and successful additional grant applications. f. "Key Decisions" are required to follow the Council's Decision Pathway. All work requests, projects and grant applications that are in-excess of £0.5m need to follow a prescribed process that is clear and transparent. Cabinet has sight of the requests and can approve or otherwise the reports or grant bid recommendations. 		
Finance Business Partner: Kayode Olagundoye, Interim Finance Business Partner, Growth & Regeneration, 24 February 2023		
2. Legal Advice: Individual grant applications in excess of £500k normally require cabinet approval. Authority is being sought both to make further applications (potentially in excess of this limit) without further reference to Cabinet, and furthermore, if successful, to agree grant terms and proceed to spend the funding on the relevant project. All procurement activities associated with implementation will need to comply with the Public Contracts Regulations and the Councils own procurement rules.		
Legal Team Leader: Eric Andrew, Team Manager: Commercial and Governance Lawyer 23 February 2023		
3. Implications on IT: I can see no implications on IT in regard to this activity.		
IT Team Leader: Alex Simpson – Senior Solution Architect 23 February 2023		
4. HR Advice: There are no HR implications evident		
HR Partner: Celia Williams 23 February 2023		
EDM Sign-off	Stephen Peacock, Executive Director Growth and Regeneration	18 January 2023
Cabinet Member sign-off	Mayor's Office	26 January 2023
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's Office	6 February 2023
Appendix A – Financial and working planning		NO
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external		NO
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny		NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment		YES
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal		NO
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal		NO
Appendix G – Financial Advice		NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice		NO
Appendix I – Exempt Information		NO
Appendix J – HR advice		NO
Appendix K – ICT		NO

