

**REPLY BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE *FOR THE*
ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE
TO QUESTIONS ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 14 OF THE
RULES OF PROCEDURE BY DEPUTY NEIL INDER**

Question 1

Please confirm whether the L'Ancrese East works have been screened for an Environmental Impact Assessment?

Answer

The proposal for the managed realignment at L'Ancrese East was submitted to the Planning Service for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening assessment on the 11th June. The Authority responded on the 21st August confirming that an EIA would be required. Following this response, and conversations with planning officers, parts of the submission made to the Planning Service have been re-worked in order to provide further clarity.

Question 2

Could the Committee describe the tender process for appointing an Environmental Impact Assessment consultant, i.e. tender or appointment?

Answer

Once the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment is defined the Committee will be following the States of Guernsey's standard procurement guidelines.

Question 3

Could the Committee confirm the budget for any Environmental Impact Assessment?

Answer

The budget will be allocated out of the coastal defence capital allocation for this work but it would not be appropriate to place that information in the public domain prior to a competitive tender.

Question 4

Could the Committee outline the brief for the Environmental Impact Assessment?

Answer

The Development and Planning Authority will instruct the Committee of the scope of the EIA within one month of receiving the planning application.

Question 5

Would the Committee agree that as Royal Haskoning DV were consultants for the works, it would be unacceptable for Royal Haskoning DV, its subsidiaries or related consultants to be involved in the Environmental Impact Assessment?

Answer

The Committee will ensure that the most appropriate parties are engaged to undertake the EIA. This may be through in house resource, on island resource or off island resource as required. We would not automatically appoint or discount Royal Haskoning DSV, but should there be an aspect on which Royal Haskoning DSV are best placed to provide comment then it would be sensible for them to be involved.

Question 6

When would an Environmental Impact Assessment be complete and ready for the Committee to review?

Answer

The required scope of the EIA will be confirmed within 28 days of the planning submission. Only once the scope is known will the timeline be confirmed, as prior to that we will not know whether it will be purely desk based or require surveys, and if surveys are required, to what extent that will impact upon the duration of the EIA (e.g. seasonality of surveys could require summer working).

Question 7

The Committee previously stated the full application would be ready by the end of the summer of 2018; when does the Committee envisage the full planning application to be submitted to Planning Services?

Answer

The planning application will be submitted this week (week of October 29th), and will be accompanied by a media release to ensure that this is publically acknowledged.

Question 8

When does the Committee envisage the full works to begin?

Answer

Currently it is anticipated work would be able to commence on site in the 3rd quarter of 2019, with the appointed contractor deciding whether they wish to commence part of the work over the winter, or wait until spring 2020. However, as outlined above, these dates could be impacted by an EIA requiring seasonal or repeat surveys.

Question 9

Please provide a breakdown of the costs for the whole of the works; this cost to include; temporary fixes, current rock armour, Haskoning DV consultant fees, estimated staff costs and engineering and design, Environmental Impact Assessment to full planning application.

Answer

Since 2017 there has been £96,252 spent on repairing and maintaining the wall. In response to your February 2018 Rule 14 questions we had estimated £80,000 for the rock armour, however we came in under budget at £71,636. We have already reported the £20,516.45 for the concrete infill work at panels 4 and 5 in response to

that same set of questions. We have had an additional fix to the “dogleg” section of the wall, where the wall realigns and there is step access to the beach. This area was severely undermined, so the decision was taken to place a concrete repair. This cost £4,100.

Since your request for the breakdown of the costs of Royal Haskoning DHV in July 2017 there have been some additional costs incurred for the design of the rock armour protection in front of the wall, and for some re-design work following site investigation works undertaken earlier this year. The costs of the consultancy services of Royal Haskoning DHV cover feasibility, design and resourcing investigation, total £80,000.

Whilst we are able to provide the costs to date for the work at L’Ancrese, we are unable to provide the cost of staff time given that this goes back not only over many years, but over different departments and staff members – the States time reporting is not currently set up in such a way to provide this data.

As mentioned above, until we know the scope of the EIA we cannot begin to estimate the cost of the EIA as there are too many variables.

Question 10

The slipway to access L’Ancrese East has degraded over the last season, the rubble core is exposed. What plans to the Committee have in place to fix the slipway?

Answer

The slipway has shown cracking for a number of years, with photographic records indicating that at the slipway/apron junction cracking was occurring in 2011 and further damage was identified in 2013. Since 2013 there has not been a significant change at this intersection. There has also been cracking recorded on the western side of the slipway, which has been there for many years. In this areas there is some visible material, which could be either infill or pebbles since washed into the crack.

Whilst this has shown no significant or obvious change recently; Property Services engineers have confirmed they will undertake an inspection of the slipway in the near future.

The committee has no current plans to repair the slipway as it is not showing signs of further degradation, and so is of low priority. If this changes in the near future and a repair is required to preserve the slipway then a serious consideration for any repair to take place prior to realignment would be the need to ensure that a repaired section would remain in place, withstanding storm conditions.

More generally, the creation of the eastern groyne will actively protect the slipway. Primarily this will be through direct protection against wave action on the structure coming from the east. Additionally it is expected that, as to the east of the slipway where beach material is significantly higher than to the west, the lee of the groyne will encourage the aggregation of beach material such that the slipway will become significantly less exposed over time.

Question 11

Is the Committee intending to sacrifice the slipway to the elements as it has done to other areas of L'Ancrese Common.

Answer

There are no plans to remove the slipway and, to restate, the proposals can be anticipated to increase the protection to this structure.

Date of Receipt of the Question: 17 October 2018

Date of Reply: 31 October 2018