

THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

Title of meeting: Cabinet	Cabinet
Subject:	Southsea Coastal Scheme - Memorial Benches
Date of meeting:	22 March 2022
Report by:	Tristan Samuels, Director Regeneration
Wards affected:	St Jude; Eastney & Craneswater

1. Requested by

Planning Committee at its meeting on 10 November 2021

2. Purpose

To inform Cabinet of the Southsea Coastal Scheme (the Scheme) plans for memorial benches affected by the project along the Southsea seafront and to update on communication with bench owners to date in relation to sub-frontage 4 around Southsea Castle.

3. Information Requested

The Scheme needs to remove all memorial benches from the seafront within the Scheme boundary in order to build new flood defences. The benches are being securely stored at the Scheme's Pier Road site.

Where contact details are available, the Scheme will make contact with all owners of those benches that will be affected. The owners will be offered the following options:

1. Their plaque is removed from the bench and placed in a temporary location on the seafront during the works. The original bench is returned to Portsmouth City Council for reuse or disposed of. On completion the plaque will be relocated onto new benches installed as part of the Scheme in a location as close as possible to the original bench.
2. The owner takes possession of their bench, but leaves the plaque with us for placing in the temporary location on the seafront during the works. On completion the plaque will be relocated onto new benches installed as part of the Scheme in a location as close as possible to the original bench.

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3. The owner takes possession of both their bench and plaque, meaning the plaque is not replaced in the temporary location and not replaced permanently on the new seating on completion.

The temporary location will permit several plaques to be placed in the same location and allow for seating for visitors.

The Southsea Coastal Scheme will make contact with all bench owners where contact details are held by Portsmouth City Council to explain the reasons for the change, the proposals and to give the options listed above. If we do not hear back from owners, the project will implement Option 1 as a default.

The Southsea Coastal Scheme has already contacted all owners of the benches at sub-frontage 4 around Southsea Castle where contact details were available. The initial feedback has been largely supportive of the proposals and the team is now working with those owners to agree which of the three options they would like to take up.

In addition to direct communication with owners for which we have contact records the Scheme will issue information on the approach to memorial benches on the project website, social media, newsletters and as a press release.

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Signed by (Director)

Appendices:

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
Memorial benches presentation to Steering Group - Oct 2021	Southsea Coastal Scheme Pier Rd office
Memorial benches letter to owners - Dec 2021	Southsea Coastal Scheme Pier Rd office
Memorial benches letter to owners - Feb 2022	Southsea Coastal Scheme Pier Rd office