

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside		
Date:	31 July 2013		
Title:	HMS Monitor M33 Project		
Reference:	5047		
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs		
Contact name:	Janet Owen		
Tel:	01962 826704	Email:	Janet.owen@hants.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to outline the intention of undertaking a joint project with the National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN) that will target significant external investment to secure the future of one of the nation's historic ships. It also highlights the intention to permanently transfer responsibility for the M33 to the NMRN as the right home for such a vessel. The report:
- Provides an update on progress with the project to open up public access to HMS Monitor M33 and ensure the most resilient future for this nationally important historic vessel.
 - Seeks Executive Member endorsement to act as a partner organisation in the Heritage Lottery Fund application submitted by the National Museum of the Royal Navy to secure funding towards this project
 - Seeks Executive Member approval to underwrite the current funding shortfall for this project up to a maximum of £200,000, subject to the development and implementation of a targeted fundraising strategy
 - Seeks Executive Member approval in principle to recommend transfer of ownership of HMS Monitor M33 from Hampshire County Council to the National Museum of the Royal Navy during the development phase of the project

2. Contextual information

- 2.1 HMS Monitor M33 is one of only two British First World War warships to survive both the war and the ravages of time. She is a monitor or coastal bombardment vessel. She was launched on 22 May 1915 and served in the

Dardanelles Campaign during the 1915-18 period, including in support of the Gallipoli Campaign during 1915. In 1919 she was refitted and returned to action in the Russian Civil War, where she covered the withdrawal of Allied and White Russian troops from North Russia during the Dvina River Campaign. Following her return from Russia she became a tender and spent the rest of her life primarily in Portsmouth Harbour where she was used for a variety of purposes.

- 2.2 She was purchased by Hampshire County Council in 1990 in order to preserve her heritage for the county and the nation. She is now berthed just to the side and astern of Nelson's flagship HMS *Victory* in the Portsmouth Naval Dockyard. Through a programme of conservation and restoration, externally the ship is now as she looked in 1915-19. A few items, such as the aft gun, are original First World War artefacts. The aft gun was given to the project by the Chilean Navy. It was present, and probably fired, at the Battle of Jutland in 1916 as one of the aft guns on HMS *Canada*.
- 2.3 Hampshire County Council currently manages the vessel and has responsibility for its maintenance. It is located in No. 1 dry dock which is currently leased from the Royal Navy. A part-time member of staff looks after the vessel.
- 2.4 Although her position within the internationally important Portsmouth Historic Dockyard visitor attraction provides an opportunity for the public to get a closer look at this historic vessel, it is not possible to go on board. There is very little interpretation of her nationally significant history and, with the opening of the new Mary Rose Museum, this lack of physical and intellectual access has become an obvious issue from a public and reputational perspective.
- 2.5 Hampshire County Council has invested in M33's stewardship needs over the last 23 years, and the vessel is in relatively good condition. However, a recent condition survey has highlighted that c. £0.5 million of preservation work is required to stabilise its deterioration from the elements, and has also identified that if this work is not undertaken in the near future the rate of deterioration will begin to accelerate rapidly linked with a significant escalation in costs .

3. HMS *Monitor* M33 Project

- 3.1 In April 2012, an *M33* Working Group was established by Hampshire County Council in partnership with the National Museum of the Royal Navy at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. Its purpose was to:
 - Investigate the feasibility of a partnership project to increase public access to the vessel in time to mark the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli Campaign in 2015

- Consider the potential permanent transfer of ownership in the vessel from Hampshire County Council to the National Museum of the Royal Navy

3.2 Over the last 17 months, the work of this group has led to:

- A signed statement of intent between the partners with regard to the transfer of ownership (appendix 1)
- The development of a project to preserve the vessel and create interpreted public access in time for the Gallipoli anniversary in 2015, as a major component of national UK commemorations, costed at £2.499 million. From this perspective the ship has received visits from three Government Ministers including the Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport, the Right Honourable Maria Miller MP.
- A Round One application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for £1.799 million submitted by the National Museum of the Royal Navy in May 2013, in partnership with Hampshire County Council
- Confirmation of match funding for the project from Hampshire County Council of £250,000 as set out in Policy and Resources report on 13 December 2012 (Treadgolds, Bishops Street, Portsmouth)
- Additional external funding secured via the National Museum of the Royal Navy fundraising team for a further £250,000

3.3 There is currently a £200,000 funding shortfall identified which will be the subject of a fundraising programme, led by the NMRN fundraising team and supported by the *M33* Working Group. It is recommended that, on condition that the NMRN/HCC partnership develop a dynamic fundraising strategy, Hampshire County Council underwrites this shortfall to a maximum of £200,000 in order to best secure a positive outcome from the Heritage Lottery Fund application.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 Hampshire County Council has already identified the match funding through a capital allocation linked to this area. This report recommends underwriting the current £200,000 funding shortfall from its capital reserves subject to the establishment of the fund raising campaign. A professional fund raising team at the NMRN are targeting this, including on an international basis, and there are high confidence levels of achieving the figure albeit this cannot be guaranteed at this stage. The purpose of underwriting at this time relates to the need to do so to secure the strongest chance of support from the HLF as a viable and funded project.

4.2 Transferring ownership of HMS M33 from Hampshire County Council to the NMRN will save HCC in the region of £16,000 per annum running costs and remove the significant longer term maintenance and stewardship costs associated with the vessel as referred to in 2.5 above

5. Other Options Considered

- 5.1 Do Nothing: The vessel will continue to deteriorate and, given its highly visible location in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, become a significant reputational and financial liability for HCC within the next 5 years. A rare piece of national World War 1 heritage would remain inaccessible and slip into poor condition (see 2.5 above) at a time when the Gallipoli Campaign and all who served there will be commemorated on an international stage.
- 5.2 Remove HMS M33 from Portsmouth Historic Dockyard for disposal: The costs of removing the vessel from this complicated location would be significant, let alone the great reputational cost of undertaking this option with such a historic artefact of international relevance. The vessel is listed on the National Register of Historic Ships and as such it is questionable as to whether disposal would be a feasible course of action or permitted in any event.
- 5.3 In conclusion, the national significance of this vessel combined with the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli Campaign provide a unique and vital opportunity for Hampshire County Council to work in partnership with the National Museum of the Royal Navy to secure a long-term future for the M33 that enables it to contribute as a major resource within the wider Portsmouth Historic Dockyard offer.

6. Next Steps

July – September	2013:	Development of Communications Strategy Development of Fundraising Strategy
September	2013:	HLF Round One Application Outcome
October	2013:	Commence Fundraising Strategy Commence Development Phase (subject to HLF Round One Pass)
March	2014:	Submit HLF Round Two application Decision made by Policy and Resources to transfer ownership to NMRN, subject to HLF Round Two pass
June	2014:	HLF Round Two Application Outcome
Summer	2015:	HMS M33 opens to the public

7. Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside:

- Supports the actions identified to open up public access to HMS Monitor M33 and ensure the most resilient future for this nationally important historic vessel.
- Endorses the ongoing involvement of Hampshire County Council as a partner organisation in the Heritage Lottery Fund application submitted by the National Museum of the Royal Navy to secure funding towards this project
- Approves action to underwrite the current funding shortfall for this project up to a maximum of £200,000, subject to the development and implementation of a fundraising strategy
- Approves, in principle, transfer of ownership of HMS Monitor *M33* from Hampshire County Council to the National Museum of the Royal Navy during the development phase of the project

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Treadgolts, Bishops Street, Portsmouth	4252	13/12/12
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

3. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- a) An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out and the conclusion is that all protected groups will benefit from this project but it will have a particularly positive impact on people with disabilities. People who use wheelchairs and have limited mobility because a lift and ramps will provide full public access to the M33 for the first time.
- b) Currently, access to the lower deck of the M33 and the dry dock is by steps only. There is no lift. Access to the main deck is by a narrow gangway with an uneven surface.
- c) The project will ensure that wheel chair users and people with limited mobility will be able to go on board the M33 and explore the lower decks for the first time because the proposals include the installation of a lift that will lower its passengers into the dry dock from the dockside. The lift will open on to a series of ramps that will take people into and out of the hull through openings that have already been cut through the steel plating at either end of the vessel.
- d) Access to the main deck will also be improved with the replacement of a narrow gangway (or brow) with an uneven surface by ramps at suitable gradients.

4. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

The County Council has a legal obligation under Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 to consider the impact of all the decisions it makes on the prevention of crime. The proposals in this report have no impact on crime and disorder.

5. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption? Not applicable
- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts? Not applicable