

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Executive Decision Record

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside
<b>Date:</b>	31 July 2013
<b>Title:</b>	HMS Monitor M33 Project
<b>Reference:</b>	5047
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

**Contact name:** Janet Owen

**Tel:** 01962 826704

**Email:** janet.owen@hants.gov.uk

#### 1. The decision:

1.1. That the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside:

- a) 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.
- b) 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
- c) 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
- d) 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

#### 2. Reason(s) for the decision:

- 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 and is included in the National Register of Historic Ships.
- 2.2. 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 access has become an obvious issue from a public and reputational perspective. This coupled with

her overall condition and the forthcoming Gallipoli Anniversary provides the context for the proposed funding bid. The funding sought will help tackle this as well as securing the vessel's future including its potential transfer out of County Council ownership.

**3. Other options considered and rejected:**

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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, even if proposed, such disposal would be a feasible course of action or permitted in any event.

**4. Conflicts of interest:**

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:

None.

- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

None.

**5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.**

**6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.**

**7. Statement from the Decision Maker:**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

**31 July 2013**

-----  
**Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and  
Countryside  
Councillor Keith Chapman**