

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Universal Services
Date:	3 March 2025
Title:	Repairs to the Chapel Tower, Royal Victoria Country Park, Netley
Report From:	Director of Universal Services

Contact name: Toby James

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1. The decision:

1.1 That the Executive Lead Member for Universal Services gives approval to spend £1.0million, funded from Cost of Change reserves, on the proposals for the protection and repair of the Grade II* listed Chapel tower at Royal Victoria Country Park, Netley, conditional upon listed building consent being secured, and enter into necessary contractual arrangements, in consultation with the Head of Legal Services.

2. Reasons for the decision:

2.1 Specialist repairs are required to address the increasing structural cracking to the brick masonry of the tower, both internally and externally and arrest its deteriorating condition.

2.2 Specialist structural investigation and assessment by an independent expert has confirmed that the structural issues in the Chapel tower are a serious concern and require specialist repair and strengthening, together with other remedial work, as soon as reasonably practicable.

2.3 An application for listed building consent was submitted in January 2025 and a decision is anticipated in March 2025. The recommendation is therefore conditional upon listed building consent being secured.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1 To cease operations, close the building and erect an exclusion zone around the Chapel. This option was rejected given the integral operational use of the Chapel as part of the wider Royal Victoria Country Park, the consequential impact of leaving the building to deteriorate further leading to its future structural failure and the potential for challenge from public bodies for the failure to maintain a Grade II* listed building, with significant reputational impact, as well as the cost of this option.

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:

3 March 2025

**Executive Lead Member for Universal Services
Councillor Kirsty North**