**FILE NOTE**

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Project Hull 2017, ‘City Speaks’/Michael Pinsky

Meeting 11th April 2016

Location Tidal Surge Barrier, Hull

Purpose Site visit to inform feasibility works and preliminary consultation with the Environment Agency

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Present Michael Pinsky, Artist MP

 Graeme Laurie, The Light Lab GL

 Phil Young, Environment Agency PY

 Mark Bailey, Environment Agency MB

 Andrew Knight, Hull 2017 AK

Circulation Attendees

 Sam Hunt, Hull 2017

 Chris Clay, Hull 2017

 Hazel Colquhoun, Hull 2017

1 The key purpose of the site visit was to enable MP & GL to see the interior of the barrier’s stair well on the west bank to ascertain the feasibility of installing networked leds to deliver/display the messages sent to them. From preliminary site survey information was obtained to inform the design proposal stage.

2 The survey was also used to identify design constraints including

* Limited access re; provision of safe working space and handling of lighting units to their location
* Access to power supply
* Sites for location of control panels

3 MB advised that the EA would be looking for assurances that software protocols would be in place to mitigate the risk of people abusing the system by, for example, using it to promote negative messages about the EA. AK explained that there was already software in use which could edit out abusive language, for example in systems which receive and then broadcast in a public arena text messages. Consideration is being given to installing a webcam to both monitor messages being broadcast and the speaker point at which people are speaking. The system could also be set up to maintain a record of all messages for an agreed period of time.

4 The software for this work will be a modified version of that being developed for the benches being commissioned as part of the city’s public realm works.

5 PY advised that he would like to ascertain any costs which the EA might incur in facilitating this work, for example the barrier is not normally manned but an EA staff presence would be required during the installation, commissioning and removal of the work.

6 AK explained that at this stage the objective was to develop the proposal to a point where there was a reasonable degree of certainty regarding the design of the lighting installation and associated measures, costs and subsequently software protocols. It was acknowledged that before the EA could consent to the proposal, within the framework of a formal agreement between the EA and Hull 2017, they would want to be satisfied that

* the lighting units and associated controls could be safely installed and maintained without any impact on the operation of the barrier
* content could be monitored and controlled such that the system was not abused

7 Next steps will be carry out the necessary R&D to provide a more detailed and costed proposal.

* Light Lab to provide Hull 2017 with a costed proposal for next stage
* Hull 2017 to agree with MP Commission Design Fee and scope of services