**Brief for enhancement**

**of Whitley bay northern promenade.**

**Background**

Following on from the huge success of the new plaza public realm, the ongoing refurbishment of Watts slope toilet, imminent restoration of the Spanish city, construction of the new hotel the councils priority is now to reach out from this core offer, northwards up the coast to Brierdene. The Northern promenade since its construction in the early twentieth century has lacked cohesion with the dome, in part due to highway and building constraints of the old coastal highway and Board walk café. These constraints have now gone, and now offer a great opportunity to give strong pedestrian links to the Northern promenade from the Spanish city

Residents and the council have very high expectations for this phase of work, and there needs to be a strong sensitivity to the Edwardian and early to mid twentieth century heritage of Whitley bay. Proposals need to reflect this heritage yet also bring a contemporary feel that quietly compliments this, and Whitley bays unique character.

Currently the Northern promenade is popular with all ages, both for events such as the regular park run, for walkers, or young ones learning to ride a bicycle. However the Council has ambition that the promenade will become a busy destination in its own right and in all seasons with the generous width provided by the original promenade design being used to its full potential.

**REQUIREMENTS.**

North Tyneside Council require a sensitive landscape led speculative design from Watts slope and the plaza to the end of Northern promenade at the Brierdene.

The site boundary is shown on attached plan

**Design considerations**

Design proposals need to include and give full consideration for the following.

1. Develop a unique colour/materials palette.
2. Give consideration to a robust cost effective floorscape appropriate to the scale and location of the site.
3. Be able to accommodate a commercial land train accessing the promenade from the links at the skate park, exiting at Brierdene back up to the upper level of the links integrating appropriate land train stops, through the study area.
4. Be able to accommodate a transit grounds maintenance vehicle.
5. Tractor access down Watts slope, for beach cleaning
6. Integration of the engineered ramp onto the promenade at Watts slope.
7. Potential for the conversion of the brick shelters, just to the north of watts slope, to small business units by the private sector, or for passive recreation purposes
8. Retention of the swimming club building, with thought given to its setting and recladding.
9. Integration of day stay beach huts, in appropriate locations.
10. The rationalisation of the shelters including their replacement and potential reuse of cast iron components.
11. Provision of extensive contemporary public seating and street furniture.
12. The rationalisation of step access, from the links down to the promenade.
13. The creative use of soft landscaping, mindful of the location, scale, and value for biodiversity.
14. Provide for enhanced beach access points
15. Integration of proposed overnight beach huts, to the north of the promenade,
16. Installation of outdoor gym equipment, at relevant locations.
17. Creating an appropriate setting for the listed Coronation fountain, and the unique period charm of the Rendezvous café.
18. Lighting scheme to the promenade, to extend its use into the evening.

**Presentation process**

Proposals are to be provided as annotated schematic scale drawings and mood boards, that will allow council officers to discuss the ideas provided with elected members. DWG files of the OS base are available form the regeneration team.

**Closing date for submission**

5pm 29th February 2016 to Quadrant.