

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

THE COMMUNITY WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

30 JUNE 2020

Title:

Museum of Farnham Working Group Update
The Future of the Museum

Portfolio Holders:

Cllr David Beaman, Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Culture

Cllr Mark Merryweather, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Assets and Commercial

Head of Service: Kelvin Mills, Head of Commercial Services

Key decision: No

Access: Public

1. Purpose and summary

In July 2019 a small working group comprised of Executive Members and Officers was set up to find solutions to the financial challenge posed by the physical condition of the Museum of Farnham, a grade I listed Georgian property in Farnham.

The purpose of this report is to update The Community Wellbeing O&S Committee on the current situation regarding:

- The poor condition of the museum building and the capital requirement
- Stakeholder consultation
- Funding options
- Governance and long term plans
- Alternative solutions

Timeline for decision making:

In considering the building's future, it is imperative that Committee Members are aware of the timeline for decision making as it is driven by the nature and timing of the repair works. If the museum repairs are to commence in April 2021 an order of hand cut bricks must be placed by the end of September 2020. This allows a four month lead-in time to assess the original brickwork and produce the requisite number of new bricks. It is essential that the works are carried in the warmer months of April through to October as lime mortar is used and it does not set in cooler temperatures.

If this timeframe is not achievable the repairs works will need to be deferred to 2022 and the temporary scaffold will have to remain in situation throughout to ensure the safety of the public.

Recommendations

Members of the Community Wellbeing Committee are asked to note the cost and the critical timing of the museum repair works and to share their views on the following questions:

1. Should the museum collection continue to be presented in Wilmer House or should the collection be moved to an alternative location to enable the Council to explore a new financial purpose for the building?
2. Should the repair works be carried out in 2021 regardless of the building's purpose? This would require the Council to allocate a capital budget of £500,000 and to place an order of bricks by no later than November 2020.

Depending on the Committee's response to these questions, Members are invited to give further consideration to the following:

3. Whether to use some of the capital budget that was set aside in 2017/18 for the museum repairs to contract a specialist bid writer to produce funding applications for the conservation works? This option supports the two assets (i.e. the building and the collection) staying together.
4. The future of the museum service and the collection, which belongs to the council, if the assets are to be separated.

2. Reasons for the recommendations:

The recommendations take account of the direction the Working Group were travelling pre-Covid-19 alongside a new financial reality as the Council seeks to understand the economic impact of the crisis on the organisation.

The effect of Covid-19

The advent of Covid-19 has had an untold effect on the Council's finances and priorities are having to change in response to new challenges. The aim of the Covid-19 Recovery, Change and Transformation Programme is to understand the financial cost incurred and to identify opportunities to create savings and address the income gap. Key projects include a re-appraisal of the Council's Corporate Strategy and a review of previously agreed projects in order to reflect these new priorities and ways of working. The recovery programme takes account of the internal organisational health of the Council and its capacity to adapt to change as well as the wider social and economic impact on the borough's communities.

The ongoing cost and inconvenience of the temporary scaffolding

Hockley and Dawson advised the Council of the need to erect the scaffold in November 2018 as a safety precaution. It is not considered safe to remove the scaffold until the high level brickwork and specifically the cornice and parapet have been repaired. There is an ongoing weekly cost for the scaffolding of £237.50 which includes the hire, the license and an inspection fee.

In addition to the ongoing cost, the scaffold is obtrusive and unwelcoming to visitors. It

gets in the way of passers-by and hinders the visibility of drivers joining West street from Bishops Mead. The staff and volunteers receive regular enquiries from the public asking when the works are due to commence and although they do their best to respond positively they are also frustrated by the situation.

Ordering the hand cut bricks and the timing of the repair works

The timing of the brickwork repairs is crucial as it involves the use of lime mortar, which does not set under cooler conditions. The majority of works must therefore take place between the months of April and October. To achieve this timeframe a four month lead in time is required in order to assess exactly how many new bricks are required and how many are viable for re-use. The new bricks will then be hand cut using traditional methods and processes to match the defective bricks.

Further deterioration of the building

The high level masonry is in a fragile and unstable condition so delaying the works may lead to further deterioration or cause structural problems to occur in other parts of the building. If either happens the repair costs will increase.

Reputational risk

As a Grade 1 listed building, Wilmer House has architectural and historical qualities that are considered to be of national importance and therefore worth protecting. The permanent presence of the scaffold sends an inconsistent message that may lead the public to construe the impression that the Council is negligent or struggling with the financial burden of maintaining an important heritage asset in the town. It may also inadvertently send a signal to the owners of other Grade 1 listed buildings in the borough that poor care or inappropriate development is acceptable to the planning authority.

Opportunities

If the issues with the building can be overcome there is an opportunity to do something more exciting with the museum, which positions the house as the 'jewel in the collection' as opposed to a repository for historical objects and artefacts. Wilmer House could be transformed into a 'living museum' bringing the past back to life with set dressed rooms and costumed guides to conduct tours and demonstrate crafts. Living museums convey the experience of what it felt like to live in the past and are popular with schools and the public. Integral to this approach would be the charging of an admission fee to help place the museum on a more sustainable path.

Create momentum

The working group has accepted that there is a lack of internal staffing capacity as well as the specialist knowledge of historic buildings and conservation skills that are required to prepare major funding applications in-house. An independent heritage professional could assist the Council in collaboration with the Maltings to develop an exciting and more devolved future for the museum.

3. Background

Explanation of the building's defects and repairs programme

In 2017/18 a budget of £92,000 was set aside to carry out external repair works to the front facade of the Museum of Farnham (known as Wilmer House). However a survey of the gauged brickwork carried out by Simpson Bricks Conservation Ltd revealed that the extent of the deterioration was worse than anticipated, so an additional budget of £90,000 was requested in 2018/19. Of this budget, £113,000 is still ring fenced.

In June 2018 the consultants, Drake and Kannemeyer met the Council's Property Engineering Manager on site to prepare a specification and project plan for the works. During this meeting concern was raised about the condition of the high-level cornice and the parapet wall directly above the second floor window heads. These observations were followed up with a high level visual inspection carried out by an independent structural engineer from Hockley and Dawson. The consultant engineer advised the Council that although no further signs of deterioration could be detected, hidden defects such as frost/thaw action and poor bonding could not be ruled out.

Taking both expert opinions into account and having discussed at length a range of interim options the Council has come to understand that the only safe and permanent solution would be to carefully record and then dismantle all of the high level masonry above the second floor windows. Any viable brickwork will be carefully stored and reused and new bricks will be cut using traditional methods and processes to match the defective bricks. This level of conservation will ensure that the Grade 1 listed building meets the standard expected by the Council's Conservation Officer and Historic England.

The cost and sequence of the works

In October 2018, Drake and Kannemeyer ran a tender process on behalf of the Council for the complete works programme. An analysis of the responses was carried out and the lowest tender came in at £462,934. The quote includes:

- Detailed survey of the high level brickwork to investigate how many original bricks can be reused and how many new bricks are needed
- Production of new bricks using traditional methods and processes
- Erection of scaffold and work platforms, parapet to be supported to the ground from the inside of the museum.
- Take down and rebuild in sections the parapet, cornice and second floor window arches preserving as much of the original brickwork as possible.
- Pointing repairs to the elevation, renew lead gutter and flashings
- render repairs to the parapet

In addition a further £77,000 is required for professional and management fees bringing the total capital requirement to approximately £540,000.

It should be stressed that the works were tendered over a year ago and therefore costs are likely to have increased and we are advised by approx. 5% per annum. The estimate covers the worse-case scenario that the entire parapet wall needs rebuilding. If however, the damage is found to be less extensive when the structure is opened up and investigated, the works may potentially come in under the estimate. Both consultants have cautioned against starting the works without a sufficient budget in place as any delay once the structure is opened up could cause further damage to the internal fabric of the building.

Timing of the works

Lime mortar is primarily used in the conservation of buildings using historically correct building methods. As lime putty (non-hydraulic lime) does not set in cooler temperatures it is imperative that the works are carried out over the warmer months (April to October). Ahead of the works, there is a considerable lead in time of approximately four months to allow for the detailed recording of the original brickwork and the making of new hand cut bricks.

4. Actions of the Working Group:

Stakeholder engagement

On 5 September 2019 the working group invited 50 stakeholders to a consultation event at the museum. The aim of the meeting was to present the issues and to test the level of support for the building. 36 people attended the event representing the County, Borough and Town Councils, the museum, historic building and local civic societies. Annie Righton, Strategic Director at Waverley chaired the meeting and presentations were received from Cllr Merryweather, Drake and Kannemeyer, Hockley and Dawson, Simpson Brickwork Conservation and Farnham Maltings.

Following the presentations the floor was opened to questions. The consultees were specifically asked to think about the following elements:

- a) Whether the Council's ownership is an impediment to the conservation of the building?
- b) Whether the building forms part of the museum or whether the collections sit separately and could theoretically be housed elsewhere?

All those present contributed to the discussion and the key points are summarised below:

- Support for the meeting and Waverley's willingness to engage with stakeholders.
- Support for the Malting's proposals to set dress the museum in a way that reflects the history of the building.
- Interest in a long lease or a trust arrangement that enables access to funding not available to local authorities.
- The development of a governance structure that protects the interests of the community and the building.
- Unanimity that the building is historically important to Farnham but is also of national importance.
- Unanimity that the building should be repaired and stakeholders took the view that Waverley has a responsibility to do this.

- General agreement that the building should stay in local authority ownership but a trust option should be explored.
- Support for maintaining the links with the Maltings as they can access national and regional funding pots not available to other organisations.
- Suggestion that the Council weighs up the benefits of placing Wilmer House on the Heritage at Risk Register as a way of accessing Historic England's repair fund.
- Agreement that it would be helpful to share the information and to communicate more widely with Farnham residents.
- Suggestion that the opportunity to train conservators may attract funding as they are nationally in short supply.

Historic England's Heritage at Risk Programme

The Working Group has considered the pros and cons of placing Wilmer House on the 'Heritage at Risk Register' (HAR), which is coordinated by Historic England. The HAR register identifies 'listed' buildings and historic sites that are deemed most at risk of being lost as a result of neglect, decay or inappropriate development. When assessing risk, Historic England look at two factors; a poor and deteriorating physical condition and/or whether a building is occupied or vacant.

In addition to the HAR register, Historic England operates a repair grant scheme, which can assist the legal owners of properties (including local authorities) with the costs of urgent repairs and conservation works. Priority is given to buildings on the HAR register although other factors may also be taken into consideration, such as:

- ✓ preventative activities and long term plans to reduce the future risk of damage/neglect
- ✓ public access
- ✓ other sources of funding have been explored
- ✓ projects with a realistic chance of progressing
- ✓ projects which secure a viable future
- ✓ applications based on a thorough understanding of the issues
- ✓ building and conservation works are completed to appropriate heritage standards

Grant offers are made on a case-by-case basis and a decision can take up to six months or longer if the historic property is to be placed on the at risk register.

If the Council were to follow this course of action the Working Group is mindful that an 'at risk' judgement may cause a negative reaction from the public. However, this could be mitigated by the opportunity of a Repairs Grant to assist with the cost of the conservation works. Historic England have given assurances that they would support the Council in conveying a positive message that secures the building's future.

As an initial step, the Council's Conservation Officer has carried out an assessment of the building using Historic England's criteria to determine the risk category. Although this assessment identifies the condition of the building as **poor** and in a **declining** trend the overall assessment is deemed **vulnerable** as opposed to at risk of loss, which is mainly attributed to the fact that the building is fully occupied and has a clear purpose and use.

5. Other External Funding Opportunities

The working group has consulted with major funders, colleagues in the heritage sector and with the staff and Board of Farnham Maltings to identify external funding that the Council, as the lead applicant are eligible to apply to. The largest and most accessible funder is the National Heritage Lottery Fund whose grants range from £3,000 to £5million. The NHLF supports a broad range of heritage activities including large scale capital programmes and repairs to historic buildings. Successful applications must demonstrate that a wider range of people will be involved in heritage as a result of NHLF funding. This means providing more opportunities that lead to greater engagement with people of all ages, abilities, social backgrounds and ethnicities. As well as the mandatory outcome, NHLF are also interested in projects that improve the physical state of heritage, develop new ways to help people make sense of their past, increase the skills of those working and volunteering in the sector, develop wellbeing and connect communities to the places where they live and support organisations in achieving more sustainable futures. Although a proportion of NHLF monies can be spent on conservation and repairs an application which is largely geared towards capital expenditure is unlikely to be successful as their priority is about getting people involved in heritage. The NHLF would definitely be worth applying to if the restoration of Wilmer House could be linked to a more ambitious and longer term development plan for the museum service. The regional office has also shown interest in the development of a joint funding application with Farnham Maltings who deliver the museum service on the Council's behalf.

The Pilgrims Trust also accept funding applications from local authorities for preservation and repairs to historic buildings. The trust are especially interested in projects that give new life or renewed purpose to buildings which are at risk and of outstanding architectural or historical importance. They will also consider projects at an early stage where additional support or expertise is required to develop a scheme. The average grant awarded in 2018/19 was £26,000 and funds can be used for capital, project and revenue expenditure. The Pilgrim Trust is also worth applying to and if successful could help leverage funds from elsewhere.

The Architectural Heritage Fund has launched a new place-shaping grant programme called 'Transforming Places through Heritage'. This Government backed programme offers advice, grants and loans to charities and social enterprises to help them revitalise old buildings; transform high streets and town centres and deliver community-led heritage regeneration. The programme is for individual heritage buildings in, or transferring to community ownership. The location of the heritage building should also be the focus of a wider strategy or initiative which aims to revitalise a high street or town centre. It is a progressive grants programme offering viability grants of up to £15,000 to test options and produce feasibility studies, development grants of up to £100,000 to prepare proposals and funding bids and transformational grants up to £350,000 towards capital costs. In this instance local authorities are not eligible to apply so the Council would either need to work in partnership with an existing charitable organisation or facilitate the creation of a new one.

The Arts Council invest public money from the government and the National Lottery to help develop museums for as many people as possible. Museums can apply for Project Grants for arts and/or museum focused activities. Museum activities supported by the Arts Council include exhibitions and programming, commemorative projects, digital and creative media projects, community consultation and co-design, outreach activity, projects involving children and young people and organisational resilience projects. Museums cannot apply for expenditure associated with building based capital work though an exception could

possibly be made if an existing building is being refurbished or adapted for long term use for arts purposes.

Covid-19 Emergency Funds

Since an initial mapping of the funding environment, which at the best of times is limited and often over-subscribed, the UK has been battling with the challenges presented by the coronavirus. Lockdown has seen the entire cultural sector close its doors to the public and the loss of vital revenue streams as a result.

As an immediate response to the coronavirus crisis national funding bodies have reassigned the majority of their grant funding to provide emergency support to the cultural sector. The Covid-19 emergency funds are designed to provide short term funding to reduce the financial pressure of the lockdown and to enable the safe reopening of arts and heritage buildings. Normal funding programmes are not likely to reopen before October 2020 when the competition for grants is likely to be extremely fierce.

The museum has closed during the lockdown period and the staff are currently furloughed. They do not anticipate fully reopening until the autumn with a slow return of Garden Gallery hires where social distancing can be applied and the likelihood of schools not returning until next year. In the meantime they have applied to Waverley for a £10,000 business grant and are looking smaller funds to assist with the purchase of protective equipment and to implement social distancing measures.

Other funding opportunities

The Community Infrastructure Levy is a charge that local authorities can impose on new development in their area. The money should be used to support the development of an area by funding infrastructure that the council and local community want. Although cultural infrastructure is eligible for CIL there must be a palpable link to either supporting or addressing the demands that development places on an area. It is unlikely that the conservation of the museum building would meet this criteria but if the museum were to move to an alternative site where for example education activities could be increased a more justifiable case for CIL could be made.

There may be some mileage in exploring sponsorship as an option particularly as the museum building was founded on the wealth of the hop trade. Heineken is the most obvious choice as they are the successor to Farnham United Brewery.

6. Partnership working and the setting up of an independent Trust

The working group has taken time to reflect if the local authority's ownership of the building and collection is a barrier to the development of a long term vision for the museum that supports a more independent and financially sustainable future.

In 2012 the Council took the decision to outsource the management operations of the museum to Farnham Maltings. The Maltings receive an annual grant of £70,000 to cover the museum's overheads, which include utilities and staff whom the Maltings employ directly. The Service Level Agreement, re-issued every three years, provides a framework

for the partnership and the Maltings have amended their charitable objects to include the museum within their governance structure.

The Maltings have performed well over the last eight years, investing time and resources in the development of a motivated staff and volunteer team. They have improved the internal decoration and displayed the collection in a way that is more contemporary and engaging. However, the SLA has a narrow focus and its short-term nature has limited discussions around security of tenure and the development of long term objectives. Progress in these areas has not been helped by the on-going uncertainty of the building, which has dominated the agenda in the last few years.

The current situation presents both challenges and opportunities. Firstly, the museum is due to submit an Accreditation Return to the Arts Council. This is a national quality standard that helps guide museums to be the best they can be for current and future users. At the heart of the Accreditation process is the development of a Forward Plan, setting out detailed plans and resource commitments over a five year period. The fact that the current SLA is due to expire months after the Accreditation submission in conjunction the uncertainty around the museum building, makes this a difficult task and it is possible that the Arts Council will reduce the museum's Accreditation status from Full to Provisional.

Farnham Maltings is a successful National Portfolio Organisation (NPO), which means the Arts Council invests in them as a leader in the theatre sector. They are currently preparing a submission for the 2022-26 NPO round and are keen to embed a strong museum offer within their core business. This could potentially unlock developmental and funding opportunities that would assist the museum in moving forward in a new and positive direction.

Finally, if the Council and/or the Maltings are to develop successful funding bids for the museum repairs any funding body will want to see a guarantee of the longevity of their investment. Together with assurances that there is a life and a long term plan for the building and the museum within it.

An Independent Trust versus the current situation

Taking these factors into consideration the Working Group have tentatively explored the idea of setting up a new independent Trust to manage the freehold of the building. Various stakeholders including Farnham Town Council and the Farnham Buildings Preservation Society would be invited to join the board of trustees alongside Waverley Borough Council. The Trust would play an active role in protecting and maintaining the physical building and it is envisaged that a long lease (approx. 20 years) would be issued to Farnham Maltings, so they can continue to deliver and develop the museum service.

The advantages of setting up an independent trust include:

- The building remains in public ownership managed by a Trust that is established purely for this role.
- More stakeholders can be involved in the maintenance of the building, and the responsibility does not therefore lie solely with WBC.
- The Trust, most likely to be constituted as a CIO, will be able to apply for grants.
- The Trust can issue a long-term lease to Farnham Maltings who, with ownership over the collection, can develop the Museum offer.

- FM and the Museum of Farnham can complete all the Accreditation paperwork with clarity around governance and ownership.

Disadvantages are that:

- It may take some time to recruit trustees
- The scale of the repairs may be a deterrent to potential new trustees.
- It removes the potential to sell or re-use the building

If Waverley's ownership of the building does not adversely affect the museum's chances of attracting the external funding then it may be more advantageous to uphold the present arrangement and to issue Farnham Maltings with a long lease that would give them the security of tenure they need to unequivocally invest in the development of a stronger museum offer.

Contracting a Bid Writer

If there is sufficient interest in the Council continuing its guardianship of the building the Working Group would then propose engaging the services of a professional bid writer with a strong track record in the heritage sector. The consultants brief would include advising the Council on the best possible governance option, developing strong ideas and proposals to take the museum forward on a more sustainable footing and to prepare and produce a minimum of two major funding bids with a significant proportion of funds paying for the repair works.

An Alternative Location for the Museum

Over the past few years Officers have spent considerable time researching alternative premises in Farnham that could potentially accommodate the museum. Separating the building and the collection would enable Wilmer House to be released for sale or re-use. The properties we have looked at include:

- Part of Vernon House currently occupied by Creative Response (Vernon House is owned by Surrey County Council and a large proportion of the building houses Farnham Library)
- Retail unit within the Brightwells development
- The New Ashgate Gallery if the current occupiers could be persuaded to move
- Montrose House
- The Waggoner Yard Garages
- Construction in the grounds of The Maltings
- Virtual museum offer with no permanent presence and loanable display cases

Unfortunately, none of the above options are straightforward and in most cases do not offer an appropriate space for the museum. However, the Council has recently been made aware of a new opportunity, which has come to light via the Executive Director of The Maltings. It involves a building in central Farnham that is owned by The Farnham Institute and leased to The Bush Hotel as part of their conferencing facilities. The lease is due to expire and The Institute are looking for a new user of the building. The Maltings are attracted by the potential to create a small flexible performance space with rooms that could accommodate the museum.

More investigation is needed including a site visit as well as comprehensive understanding of the financial and legal implications. However, given the present circumstances and the impact of covid-19 on the Council's finances, it could provide a solution to the building while securing the long term future of the museum service.

7. Summary

This report provides an update from the Museum of Farnham Working Group. It highlights the different areas we have explored in our effort to find solutions to the challenges posed by the museum building and the cost of the repairs.

The report gives an explanation of the building defects and the nature and sequence of the conservation works. It summarises the consultation that has taken place as well as key contributions from stakeholders and it provides a review of the funding environment both pre Covid-19 and in the light of the current crisis. It suggests that we are at a cross roads in the museum's history with an opportunity to make key decisions that will have a long term impact on the future of the building and the museum within it. Finally, it offers some tentative ideas around different governance arrangements and alternative premises that may merit further investigation and discussion.

1. Relationship to the Corporate Strategy and Service Plan

This report relates to the following priority contained within the 2019-23 Corporate Strategy:

- 1.1 High quality public services accessible for all, including sports, leisure, arts, culture and open spaces
- 1.2 Encourage affordable access to sports and leisure facilities and the arts for all, improving services across the borough, focusing on health inequalities ensuring that no area is disadvantaged.

8. Implications of decision

8.1 Resource (Finance, procurement, staffing, IT)

There is budget of £113,000 currently set aside for the museum repairs. However there is an ongoing weekly cost of £237.50 for the scaffolding, which is met from this budget.

There is no provision for the additional budget of circa £500,000 required to complete the works.

8.2 Risk management

Political – The disposal of Wilmer House is potentially controversial to the public

Financial – The financial burden of maintaining Wilmer House. The value of the property

and the constraints of the Grade 1 listing.

Community – Public disapproval for the sale of Wilmer House. Loss of public access to an iconic historic building.

Sector - Uncertainty over the future of the building makes long term planning for the museum difficult. Accreditation status is reduced from Full to Provisional. The cessation of the museum contract with Farnham Maltings.

HR – Since the museum staff are directly employed by Farnham Maltings there are no HR implications for the Council to consider.

8.4 Legal

The Legal Team has sought the advice of a barrister to mitigate any potential public challenge to the disposal of Wilmer House. The advice found there to be no restrictive covenant within the property deeds or within the legislation governing the provision of local authority museums, which would impede the sale or relocation of the collection to an alternative premises. The extent of the advice does not cover any challenges that may arise from the Grade 1 listing or indeed any other statutory obligations placed upon the Council concerning the sale of heritage assets. Subsequently, the Council's Historic Buildings Officer has advised that there are no restrictions regarding a change of use though as a rule of thumb the best use is considered to be what the house was originally intended for i.e. single house occupancy with minimal change to the structure of the building.

8.5 Equality, diversity and inclusion

There are no direct equality, diversity or inclusion implications in this report. However it should be noted that there is no disabled access to the first and second floor galleries of the museum in its current premises. Installing a lift is not a viable option due to the age and layout of the building however, the galleries and collections can be viewed virtually and this element should be further enhanced as part of the museum's future plans.

Equality impact assessments are carried out when necessary across the council to ensure service delivery meets the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010.”

a. Climate emergency declaration

This report supports the maintenance and repair of an important heritage building within the Borough. Continuing to use Wilmer House as a museum supports:

- The re-use of an old building as an alternative to new carbon-generating construction activities
- A reduction in carbon by maintaining and repairing an existing old building
- The installation of energy efficient measures
- A focus on how the building is occupied and used
- An increased lifespan - the longer a building can last, the less embodied carbon is

expended over the life of the building.

- The wider social and economic impacts of historic buildings including the role heritage plays in shaping the character of places and enhancing the quality of life and wellbeing of residents.

There is a substantial cost to carrying out the repairs which is increasingly difficult to justify in the current financial context. Other options which have been considered and could be explored further include:

- Locate the museum to an alternative building or occupy a space within a mixed use building that is more cost effective
- The development of a virtual museum offer in conjunction with the loan of displays
- The cessation of a museum offer in Farnham

The impact of these options on the environment is limited.

9. Consultation and engagement

9.1 A stakeholder consultation event was held in September 2019.

10. Other options considered

10.1 The relocation of the museum to an alternative premises, which would enable a different use or the disposal of Wilmer House in order to generate a capital receipt for the Council.

11. Governance journey

This report accompanies a verbal update at the Community Wellbeing O&S Committee meeting on 29 June 2020.

Background Papers

There are no background papers, as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972).

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