

REPORT TO ASSETS AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

60 KING STREET REGENERATION PROJECT



Report Reference A-21-18
Meeting Date 22nd November 2021
Agenda Item 9
Prepared by Town Clerk

1.0 UPDATE

In late October, the working group met with the consultants and went over the output of the consultants' initial research collation and noted the long-list of high level options for the building. A number of questions were put to the working group which it felt it needed additional time to consider. The meeting highlighted the need for improved advance communication between the working group and consultants to ensure future joint meetings were as constructive as possible.

Further to this meeting the working group met and discussed the project. Cllr Robertson was appointed as lead member for the group and the working group agreed that the fundamental desires for the project are:

- a) To provide a function space for the town
- b) For the council to maintain overall control of the building
- c) For the asset to at least break even, but ideally generate a revenue surplus for the council

The working group will be developing up to six criterion on which to assess the various options for the building; these will include the above and enable the high level options appraisal to be completed (this being required to justify the approach being taken when seeking the major funding from the National Heritage Lottery Fund)

Tricolor has submitted a grant application to the Architectural Heritage Fund for £8,000. This would fund the public consultation and governance review to support later major funding applications to the NHLF. Tricolor will also be submitting an expression of interest application to the Pilgrims Trust within the next month to seek approval to apply for a development grant from the funder which would fund work on the viability appraisal and develop additional documentation which will be required for the NHLF bid.

Subject to approval of the grant to the AHF, consultation will commence in the new year. The aim will be to build a strong community-level input into the future uses for the building which will support larger funding applications. The working group has discussed the idea of opening the building for public tours as part of the consultation programme to build engagement with the space.

2.0 DECISION REQUIRED

None, information only report.