

**CABINET**

**DATE OF MEETING:** 6 August 2020

**TITLE OF REPORT:** URGENT WORKS – HARLINGTON ROOF

**Report of:** Head of Corporate Services

**Cabinet Member:** Councillor James Radley, Deputy Leader and Finance

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To inform Cabinet of an urgent decision taken to enable works to be carried out to the roof of the Harlington

**2 OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 That Cabinet note the urgent decision taken to spend up to £9K on urgent works to the Harlington Roof in consultation between the Portfolio Holder for Commercialisation and the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny.

**3 BACKGROUND**

3.1 Members will recall that the Harlington is owned by Hart District Council. A lease is being negotiated with Fleet Town Council, however as freeholder we retain legal liabilities for certain aspects of the building including much of the infrastructure.

3.2 Due to the closure of the Harlington, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it appeared an appropriate time to carry out more in-depth investigation into the issues associated with the roof. With this in mind, it was agreed that Hart District Council would pay for scaffolding to facilitate this process.

3.3. A full report on the roof has now been received, which set out a series of works which will need to be carried out to ensure the Harlington is kept in good condition.

3.4 Fleet Town Council requested that one element of those works would be carried out urgently, as

- commissioning and completion of those works whilst the scaffolding is in situ would reduce the cost to the public purse.
- the preferred contractor was available immediately, then not available for the next few months.

**4 REASON FOR URGENT DECISION**

4.1 In accordance with the Constitution, the Council can take decisions, outside of the budget or policy framework if the decision is a matter of urgency. Such decisions may only be taken if it is not practicable to convene a quorate meeting of the full Council and if the chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee agrees that the decision is urgent.

- 4.4 In this case, the request was made to Hart District Council by Fleet Town Council at midday on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. After discussion with both the Portfolio Holder and Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny, details of the request were provided to them at 6pm that evening.
- 4.5 The Portfolio Holder and Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny considered and discussed the request and formal notification of agreement to the urgent decision was received around midday on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Fleet Town Council were duly notified. The timescales requested by Fleet Town Council did not allow for the convening of a quorate Council meeting.

## **5 BUDGETARY IMPACT**

- 5.1 The costs associated with this decision is up to £9K and whilst not anticipated at the beginning of the year (and therefore outside the budgetary framework) it will be taken from the building maintenance budget for 2020/2021

## **6 NEXT STEPS**

- 6.1 Further works were identified within the aforementioned investigative report into the Harlington roof. However consideration of any further works and the budgetary impact of this, will be subject to a future Cabinet report for consideration.

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