

**Select Committee Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education**

**3 June 2009**

**Report of the Director of the Urban Environment**

**Progress Report – Review of Museums Service**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To apprise the Select Committee of progress made with the Review of Museums.

**Background**

2. It has been established in the Council's Capital Strategy for a number of years that the amalgamation of the Red House Glass Cone and Broadfield House Glass Museum could lead to an improved visitor attraction, a better heritage asset and a facility of sufficient stature to celebrate our internationally renowned glass collection.
3. To this end it is proposed to appoint suitably qualified consultants to help the Council explore the feasibility of such an aspiration and consider what would be required in terms of funding and resources to deliver it.
4. A project team has worked on the development of the project brief, the process of identifying appropriately qualified consultants, shortlisting and appointment processes associated with this project.
5. The project has been sub-divided into two stages:-

**Stage 1**

The objective of this part of the commission is to carry out a preliminary scoping exercise to test the Council's aspiration. It would be anticipated that this would involve a review of existing documentary information and comparison with similar facilities. This should create a position statement/baseline position and a professional assessment of whether it would be possible to deliver an amalgamated facility of suitable quality and scale either within the existing leased buildings, or within a slightly larger area to include the buildings which are excluded from the current lease on the Red House Cone site.

## Stage 2

Subject to the outcome of the above, the objective of the second part of the commission would be to establish how the development of the amalgamated facility would be achieved and what resources would be required to deliver it. As part of this the brief requires specific recommendations to cover the following elements:

- Physical/Spatial Designs
  - Interpretation Plans
  - Audience Development and Marketing Strategy
  - Estimated Costings and Funding Strategy
  - Implementation Programme and Priorities
6. Expressions of Interest were invited from 19 consultancies who were selected from the Museum Association website or based on recommendation/known provenance with support from the West Midlands section of the Museum Libraries and Archives Council (MLA).
  7. The process resulted in 12 companies completing and returning the required documentation to be eligible for short listing and a panel of Council Officers selected 5 to submit tenders and attend for interview for the commission. The selection of the successful consultant will be done on both Quality and Price criteria with the interview being part of this process.
  8. The programme for the appointment and delivery of the project is as follows:-

Return of Tenders	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2009
Interviews	15 <sup>th</sup> May 2009
Appointment Confirmation	22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2009
Stage 1 Report	By end July 2009
Stage 2 Report	By end October 2009
  9. Within the process the brief requires the successful consultants to identify how and when stakeholder consultation will take place to ensure that all views are taken account of and have the opportunity to influence the outcome of the study. For example a special meeting of the Brierley Hill Area Committee has been requested by the Committee for inclusion within the consultative process.
  10. Given the timescales for the appointment it is anticipated that officers will be in a position to reveal the name of the successful consultants to Members at the meeting.

### **Finance**

11. The feasibility study detailed in the report is to be funded by resources held within the Directorate of the Urban Environment.

### **Law**

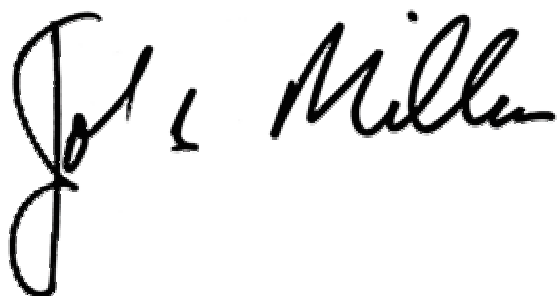
12. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of its statutory functions.
13. Section 12 of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 empowers the Council to provide and maintain museums within or outside its area and may do all things as may be necessary to or in connection with the provision or maintenance of a museum
14. There is a duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to account for the implications of the impact of community safety on actions and decisions relating to service area.

### **Equality Impact**

15. This work has been conducted in full accordance with the Council's equality and diversity policies and should in no way have any prejudicial impact on different racial groups, disabled people, both genders and/or relevant groups.

### **Recommendation**

16. That the Committee notes the content of this report and provide comments to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Culture accordingly.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Millar'. The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial 'J' and a cursive 'Millar'.

**J MILLAR**  
**Director of the Urban Environment**

Contact Officer:

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List of Background Papers