
Meeting of Select Committee Regeneration Culture and Adult Education – 10

March 2011

Report of the Director of the Urban Environment

Glass Museum Feasibility Study

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Select committee on progress made and further work undertaken as part of the Glass Museum Feasibility Study.

Background

2. Members will be aware that previous work has been undertaken, and reports submitted to this Select committee, with regard to possible development of an enhanced glass Museum facility in the Borough.
3. The most recent report that has been considered was the report by the Director of the Urban Environment to Cabinet in September 2010. This report is attached for Members' information and consideration at Appendix 1.
4. In summary the position remains as it was at the time of the report to Cabinet with the following additions:-
 - Some additional financial detail has been provided by L & R in the context of overall capital costs and potential funding sources.
 - Additional work on the practicalities of providing an underground link between the two sites has been undertaken.
 - Complex Developments Ltd., the owners of the White House site, have undertaken a significant amount of work in preparing an ERDF funding application with support and involvement of Council officers. The success of this application is key to the overall project, and a further report will be submitted to Cabinet in due course detailing the full implications of this to the Council and asking for the council to sanction such an application as the authorised body benefiting from the ERDF grant.
 - The Council has completed the purchase of the Red House Cone site and funding of £90,000 has been identified to undertake essential repairs and works to the former Crystal Stuart Shop and outbuildings.

Finance

5. The costs of the Glass Museum Feasibility study are to be found from resources held by the Directorate of the Urban Environment.
6. As detailed in paragraph 20 of the Cabinet report of 22 September 2010 (Appendix 1), there is significant further work required in order to confirm both the costs and potential funding sources for the White House Cone project. Therefore, at this stage it is not possible to quantify with any certainty the potential financial implications to the Council of the proposed scheme.

Law

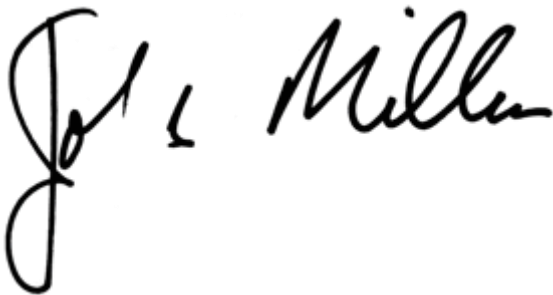
7. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 1980 enables the Council to do anything which is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social and environmental well being of the area.
8. The council provides museums under the provisions of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964.

Equality Impact

9. The proposals within this report comply with the Council's policy on equality and diversity.

Recommendations

10. That the Select Committee notes the contents of both this report and the report to Cabinet on 22 September 2010 and comment accordingly.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.B. Millar'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

J.B. MILLAR
Director of the Urban Environment

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List of Background Papers