

## **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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