

ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Report to	Finance Governance & Asset Management
Meeting date	21 June 2022
Report author	Dan Sancisi
Agenda item	12

Report of Museum Manager

1. **Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To inform Members about the agreement between English Heritage Trust and Abingdon Town Council.
- 1.2 To report the progress of the lift preplanning application.

2. **Summary**

2.1 **English Heritage and Abingdon Town Council Maintenance agreement**

- 2.2 An agreement has been reached between your Officers and English Heritage Trust over responsibilities for the care and maintenance of the Abingdon County Hall building.

2.3 **Total Access Lift Project**

- 2.4 Ridge Partners LLP have completed a feasibility and pre-planning application to Vale of the White Horse Planning Officers. Your Officers have approved submission of the documents and will await further information in response to the submission.

3. **Action required**

- 3.1 Members are requested note this report.

4. **Link to strategic plan and objectives**

recycling.

4.1 **KO3 To manage the Council's assets efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of the community now and in the future.**

The agreement between English Heritage and Abingdon Town Council serves to secure the future care and maintenance of the historic Abingdon County Hall thereby protecting its value as a substantial asset. The lift project aims to widen access to the Museum collection, events and activities.

5. **Background**

5.1 **English Heritage and Abingdon Town Council Maintenance agreement**

5.2 The agreement has been approved by Finance, Governance & Asset Management Advisory Committee on 23 November 2021 and has now been signed by English Heritage Trust and Abingdon Town Council.

5.3 **Total Access Lift Project**

5.4 Ridge Partners LLP were commissioned by your Officers to complete a feasibility study for installation of a lift to first and second floors of the Museum in December 2021 following approval by FGAM on 23 November (FG45).

6. **Key information and options**

6.1 **English Heritage and Abingdon Town Council Agreement.**

6.2 The maintenance agreement has now been signed and should encourage routine maintenance of the building fabric. The agreement was approved by committee FG36.

6.3 The works team from EHT visited to create the specification for the renovation and redecoration of the cupola and balustrade on the roof.

6.4 A new door was installed to the Cupola at the end of April 2022.

6.5 **Total Access Lift Project**

6.6 Ridge Partners LLP have been instructed to submit the pre-planning advice application and feasibility study.

6.7 The local conservation Officer and planning team at the Vale of the White Horse will review and comment on the proposal.

6.8 A meeting will be called in due course between Ridge, the Planners and your Officers to ascertain the best possible scenario for the full planning application.

7. **Climate change/green implications**

7.1 No additional climate change / green implications to report.

8. **Financial/budget implications**

8.1 There are budget considerations in relation to commissioning the Feasibility study from Ridge Partners and pre-planning advice. There is no existing allocation of funds in the current year's budget as such the pooled property fund may be considered in relation to proceeding with the Feasibility Report.

9. **HR implications**

9.1 There are no HR considerations.

10. **Supporting papers and appendices**

10.1 Appendix 1 '5017274-RDG-XX-XX-DOC-A-0001-V02-Abingdon County Hall Museum Lift'

10.2 Appendix 2 'Maintenance Agreement between English Heritage Trust and Abingdon Town Council'