

# ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Report to	Finance Governance & Asset Management Committee
Meeting date	15 March 2023
Report author	Dan Sancisi
Agenda item	6

## Report of Museum Manager

### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To inform members on progress of the extended feasibility study reports for pre-planning application advice for the submission of a planning application to install a lift to the first floor of the Museum.
- 1.2 (No decision required, report to be noted)

### 2. Summary

- 2.1 Ridge and Partners LLP were instructed to continue the feasibility study reports by your officers, following committee approval, minute F73/22, FGAM meeting of the 17 January 2023.
- 2.2 Ridge are currently sourcing estimates for the access plan.

### 3. Action required

- 3.1 Your officers request that committee notes this progress report.

### 4. Link to strategic plan and objectives

- 4.1 Forward Plan – Museum Lift F3
- 4.2 Our key objectives:
  - 3 - *To manage the Council's assets efficiently and effectively to meet for the needs of the community now and in the future.* Improving the condition of existing buildings extends their function and facility for the community.
  - 4 - *To work with community partners to support those who are vulnerable and in need and to create opportunities to increase social inclusivity.* In line with a commitment to accessibility and inclusivity your Officers are developing a proposal for lift access to first and second floors of the Abingdon County Hall.

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5. **Background**

- 5.1 Preplanning advice and feasibility study for a new lift
- 5.2 18 Nov 2019: minute C70/19 FGAM decision to investigate lift to upper floors.
- 5.3 23 Nov 2021 minute FG45. It was recommended that the 'S21-2833 – Abingdon County Hall Museum Lift Feasibility Report' be approved.
- 5.4 21 Oct 2022 Pre-application advice received from Vale of the White Horse planning suggested further research is required, they were clearly influenced by the letter of advice from Historic England.
- 5.5 17 Jan 2023 minute F73/22 decision to extend pre-application to include an access plan, also to extend the conservation report and consider historic views of the town centre and to be specific to a modified 'option three' proposal, as suggested by Historic England.

6. **Key information and options**

- 6.1 Ridge Partners LLP have been instructed to proceed with developing a modified option three and co-ordinate a new access plan and extended conservation report.
- 6.2 Asset Heritage have been instructed to develop the conservation and historic significance reports previously undertaken and analyse historic views of the town centre.
- 6.3 Ridge are seeking quotes for the access plan and will report their findings before a supplier is chosen. Your officers have obtained an independent quote from an approved Museums supplier and await the Ridge option for comparison.

7. **Climate change/green implications**

- 7.1 none.

8. **Financial/budget implications**

- 8.1 No further financial implications, other than the agreed costs at FGAM 17 Jan 2023, minute F73/22.

9. **HR implications**

- 9.1 None at this time.