

ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Report to	County Hall Museum Sub-Committee
Meeting date	09 September 2026
Report author	Dan Sancisi
Agenda item	6.3

Five-Year Plan Report

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update Members on the five-year plan.

2 Summary

- 2.1 The five-year plan is due to be renewed in December 2026 and will run from 2026 to 2031.
- 2.2 The plan outlines development of the Museum as a cultural centre in Abingdon, presenting key aims to progress the Museum's offering and profile, proposals to increase accessibility and become more inclusive.

3 Action required

- 3.1 No action, Members are requested to note the report.

4 Link to strategic plan and objectives

4.1 *KO2 To develop a resilient, sustainable town which will provide a home for residents now and in the future.*

- 4.1.1 The Museum's presence in Abingdon County Hall sustains the condition of the building, maintaining it for future generations, enhancing its town centre context by articulating the history of Abingdon.
- 4.1.2 The five year plan provides a framework to increase access to this asset and helps to increase resilience, maximising the museum presence as visitor attraction.

4.2 *KO4 To work with community partners to support those who are vulnerable and in need and to create opportunities to increase social inclusivity.*

- 4.2.1 The five-year plan includes strategies for engaging with local groups and reaching more of the local community.

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5 Background

- 5.1** The Museum's operational parameters and goals are guided by a series of developmental five-year plans.
- 5.2** The five-year plan renewal is underway, pending release of the Town Council's Strategic Plan 2025 to 2029 for reference, and the Museum's identification of evolving key aims, which are affected by the outcome of pursuing lift access planning permission.
- 5.3** Access and inclusivity were core themes of the previous plan, though both can be explored and improved without physical access provided by a lift, emphasis of the plan will be specific to its status.

6 Key information and options

- 6.1** In developing the key aims of the Museum and discussing wider SWOT/PESTLE factors, consultation with the Friends of Abingdon Museum, Town Councillors and other key stakeholders should be conducted.
- 6.2** Your Officers will circulate the SWOT/PESTLE form to Councillors in due course, inviting comment and suggestions.
- 6.3** The following themes form a large part of the new five-year plan and questions that arise should be considered as forces that impact the development of the museum service in Abingdon.
- 6.4** Your officers will consider the impact of entry charges to the Museum, whether that be a universal charge for entry or partitioned charges for special exhibitions, for example Jurassic Marine Reptiles project (JMR).
- 6.5** The plan will consider financial resilience, climate change impact on maintenance of the building and other risk factors arising such as river level, flooding and temperature variations that effect the collection and visitor trends.
- 6.6** Staffing levels resilience will be considered, a budget bid for a modified staff plan will be proposed to commence in 2027-28 cycle.
- 6.7** Access and inclusivity will be explored.
- 6.8** Lift funding or alternative solutions will be considered.
- 6.9** Impact of LGR such as integration of services with the library, developing connections further with community partners.
- 6.10** Development of a heritage quarter and new partnerships that entails, especially with reference to the Abbey buildings Trust plans.
- 6.11** Investigate options for displaying Abingdon Town Council's artworks and other

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town treasures currently unavailable to the public.

7 Climate change/green implications

7.1 No additional climate change / green implications to report.

8 Financial/budget implications

8.1 There are no additional financial implications regarding the current budget in this report.

9 HR implications

9.1 There are no current HR implications.

Dan Sancisi, Museum Manager, 28 August 2026