



**NEW ROMNEY TOWN COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL MEETING 10TH APRIL 2017
TOWN CLERK'S REPORT – CAPITAL PROJECTS**

AGENDA ITEM: 14(i)(a)

PROPOSED COMMUNITY HALL / SPORTS PAVILION – UPDATE

The Community Hall / Sports Pavilion Steering Group met for the third time with the appointed Architect's Team and the Synergy Project Management Team on Tuesday 4th April 2017 at the Architect's Studio and Offices in Hythe. This was a further preliminary design meeting, at which time the building design was again reviewed in light of matters previously raised and issues highlighted via a recent visit to a similar facility. Considerations based on practicalities and build cost as well as the need to future-proof the facility to the maximum possible extent were further discussed.

The Architect had prepared a revised drawing based on a slightly reduced overall size whilst maintaining all of the original required elements – this having been prepared to illustrate a potential option for saving on overall cost in the region of £250,000.00. The pros and cons of considering this alternative option were discussed in some detail – not least, in view of the practicalities of raising the required match funding to deliver the project. It was agreed that an independent Project Steering Group meeting would be arranged in order to further consider this issue before meeting again with the Architect's Team, particularly as it would be so important in the long term to make the right recommendations to Full Council regarding design and scale whilst balancing cost and funding potential against flexibility and future-proofing the facility.

The need to appoint additional consultants at this stage to undertake required surveys and provide additional important advice and information was again raised by the Synergy Team and it was confirmed that the Synergy Project Management Team would provide a schedule of relevant fee proposals and recommended consultants for consideration at this meeting of Full Council and that, if necessary, further pre-allocation of professional fees would also need to be considered.

It was confirmed that it would now be appropriate to arrange a pre-planning meeting based on the original competition documents – simply to establish the District Council Planning Officers' opinion of the project and discuss any potential difficulties in order that, going forward, the Town Council will have a good understanding of what will be required of a successful planning application in respect of this project. It was, therefore, agreed that the Architect should proceed to arrange the afore-mentioned meeting.

A further design meeting, which will also take place at the Architect's Offices, has been provisionally arranged for early May.

Recommended Actions:

- **To consider schedule of consultancy fee proposals and recommended consultants and approve 'in principle' appointments subject to an agreed maximum budget, authorising the Town Clerk, in consultation with at least two of the Project Steering Group Members, to approve formal appointment of required consultants at such time as required and provided that the maximum agreed budget will not be exceeded.**
- **If appropriate, to authorise the Clerk to settle all invoices in respect of Community Hall / Sports Pavilion Professional Fees, when received and having first ascertained that all is in order.**
- **If appropriate, to consider further pre-allocation of funds in respect of Community Hall / Sports Pavilion professional fees.**

Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
6th April 2017