

# Report and Presentation to Leisure and Community Scrutiny Panel

Date: 23 September 2019

Report of: Director of Leisure and Community

Subject: DESIGN AND COSTS FOR REMODELLING FERNHAM HALL

#### SUMMARY

The development of a concept design and budget cost that best matches the Council's agreed vision has been one of the main strands of work in the project to remodel Ferneham Hall into a new community arts venue. A presentation will be given to the Scrutiny Panel on 23 September outlining in detail the concept design and budget cost.

The Scrutiny Panel will be asked to comment on the concept design, budget cost and funding arrangements. Their comments will be tabled when the 'Concept Design and Budget Costs for remodelling Ferneham Hall' report is presented to the 26 September Executive.

At this meeting, the Executive will be asked to approve the concept design, budget cost and the funding of the project through current and future CIL receipts, supplemented by prudential borrowing and external grant funding where available.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Members are now invited to consider the contents of the presentation and pass any comments to the Executive.



# Leisure and Community Scrutiny Panel Briefing Paper

| Date:        | 23 September 2019                              |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Subject:     | Design and costs for remodelling Ferneham Hall |
| Briefing by: | Director of Leisure and Community              |
| Portfolio:   | Leisure and Community                          |

### INTRODUCTION

1. This briefing paper presents the background on the 'Concept Designs and Budget Costs for remodelled Entertainment Venue' agenda item that will be presented at the Leisure and Community Scrutiny Panel meeting on Monday 23 September.

# **Background**

- 2. An initial vision to create a new community arts and entertainment venue to replace Ferneham Hall was approved by the Executive in July 2018 and subsequently updated in December 2018 following a consultation. The vision identified a number of design priorities for the venue including
  - A main auditorium with around 800 seats to attract better quality shows
  - Improved cast/crew areas including the stage and backstage, to support high quality performances
  - A secondary performance space of around 100 seats

- A flexible studio space
- Improved accessibility
- Community meeting rooms
- Improved foyer area and box office
- Improved audience facilities

# Concept Design and Budget Costs for remodelling Ferneham Hall

3. Overseen by the Ferneham Hall Project Member Working Group, the development of a concept design and budget cost that best matches the Council's agreed vision has been one of the main strands of work of the project.

- 4. Following extensive work, a concept design which best matches the Council's vision has been developed. The Member Working Group will be asked to approve both the concept design and budget costs on 16 September 2019.
- 5. If approved, a report regarding the concept design and budget costs will be presented to a special meeting of the Executive on 26 September. The report will:
  - Give an update on the progress of the project, including an overview of the development of the concept design and budget cost;
  - Present both the concept design and budget cost for approval; and
  - Outline the next steps of the project.
- 6. The Executive will be asked to:
  - Approve the concept design of the remodelled Ferneham Hall and that this be submitted as part of a planning application;
  - Approve the budget cost for the remodelling project; and
  - Approve the funding of the project through current and future CIL receipts, supplemented by prudential borrowing and external grant funding where available.
- 7. The agenda and accompanying report for the Executive Meeting will be published on Wednesday 18 September.

# **Leisure and Community Scrutiny Panel**

- 8. At the Scrutiny Panel meeting, Members will receive a presentation providing an overview of the contents of the Executive report, including details of the concept design, budget cost and proposed funding arrangements.
- 9. Members will be asked to comment on the content of the presentation, the concept design, budget cost and proposed funding arrangements. These comments will be tabled and considered at the Special Executive meeting on 26 September.

# **CONCLUSION**

10. Scrutiny Panel Members will have the opportunity to comment on the concept design, budget cost and funding arrangements for the remodelled Ferneham Hall. Their comments will be tabled when the 'Concept Design and Budget Costs for remodelling Ferneham Hall' report is presented to the 26 September Executive.

# **Enquiries:**

For further information on this report please contact Lindsey Ansell, Director of Leisure and Community (Ext 4567).