

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

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meeting date: 28 MAY 2024  
title: CASTLE KEEP RESTORATION WORKS UPDATE  
submitted by: ADAM ALLEN - DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
principal author: WINSTON ROBINSON – HEAD OF ENGINEERING SERVICES

## 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To provide Committee with an update regarding the proposed works at Clitheroe Castle Keep and to allow any questions from committee members.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Community Objectives - To help make people's lives healthier and safer.
- Corporate Priorities - To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley.
- Other Considerations – The Keep is a Grade 1 listed Scheduled Monument and is an important attraction to the Ribble Valley, contributing towards the tourism economy.

## 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Committee originally approved this scheme in January 2017 subject to external funding being secured to part finance the works. However, external funding was not forthcoming and a Special Policy and Finance Committee in February 2022, recommended the use of earmarked reserves, as an alternative method of funding the scheme, to allow it to go ahead.

2.2 Stage 1 and Stage 2 Structural surveys have been completed. The stage 1 survey highlighted areas of concern regarding the structural stability and integrity of the Keep. The overall structure of the Keep is sound, however there is some stonework that is less secure than is ideal. From the Stage 1 findings, temporary structural supports have been installed in the vulnerable areas. This has allowed the Keep to be re-opened to the general public and it has facilitated the further surveys and intrusive sampling for Stage 2.

2.3 The Stage 2 survey, which is yet to be received in full, has established that the structure has been built directly off limestone rock and therefore there are no foundation issues that may give rise to subsidence/settlement. The survey additionally proved that the interventions in the Victorian era, to alleviate the perceived instability issues have had limited effect. The buttressing to three of the four arises is not tied to the original building to act as one homogeneous structure and therefore serves little purpose in supporting the Keep.

2.4 Elevation drawings are being drawn-up from the photogrammetry survey to finalise the recommendations of the Stage 2 Structural Survey. When completed, the Survey findings will prioritise the remaining remedial works required to make the monument structurally stable and safe. A package of works will be put together by officers.

### 3 ISSUES

3.1 It is considered prudent to use the current budget to prioritise work to the structural integrity of the Keep and it is likely that the majority of the budget will be needed for this purpose. It is hoped that foliage will be removed as part of the scheme and aesthetic improvements can be made wherever possible. A report will be presented to committee with recommendations in July 2024 prior to work being commissioned.

3.2 Officers are exploring external funding options to carry-out additional works outside the scope of the structural survey.

### 4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Technical, Environmental and Legal – The structural interventions will future-proof the monument.
- Financial Implications - None
- Political – None.

- Reputation – The Council's good maintenance of its assets enhances its reputation.
- Equality and Diversity – None as a direct result of this report.

## 5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

- 5.1 Note the results of the survey to date and the proposed focus on structural integrity as a priority.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

For further information please ask for Winston Robinson, on extension 4523

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