

Minutes of UK Prosperity Fund working group

Meeting Date: Thursday, 22 February 2024, starting at 1.00 pm
Present: Councillor S Atkinson (Chair)

Councillors:

S Hore

S O'Rourke

L Jameson

In attendance: Director of Community Services, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Director of Economic Development and Planning, Director of Resources & Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Executive

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Rogerson.

2 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2023 were approved as a correct record. Following an enquiry from a Member, the Chairman requested an update on the agreement with Roefield Leisure, which was expected to be finalised within the week.

3 CLITHEROE MARKET TENDER UPDATE

The Director of Economic Development and Planning updated Members in regard to the two tenders received from companies that had tendered for the work on the market. In summary, the tender included completely removing the surface of the bull ring, laying a base and suitable surface to support vehicle access, and the erection of semi-permanent stalls. The quotations varied and both were substantially over the allocated budget. Members were therefore asked to consider options for the way forward.

A substantial portion of the costs were attributed to resurfacing in a way that was both fit for purpose and visually appealing. The group discussed alternative surfaces, all of which would require a substantial period of works which would be difficult to accommodate without disrupting market trading.

The group recommended exploration of a refurbishment model using matching flags to replace tarmac, with a gradual repairing scheme to replace rotten wood and clean/jetwash areas, which would cause minimal disruption. A report would be brought back to the working group.

4 LONGRIDGE PUMP TRACK QUOTES

The Director of Economic Development and Planning informed Members that four specialist companies had been approached with the draft specification for the pump track, of which two had provided quotations. Both quotations were within the assigned budget with the preferred company identified following a scoring exercise by officers.

The Director shared a draft visual plan of the track which included a design suitable for both novices and experienced riders and advised that the company would take the lead on a public engagement of the options available.

The group felt that that as much as possible the track needed to make the best use of the designated site without impinging on the potential events space, the quotations for which were expected the following week. It was also noted that once the works were completed on the Council's land, a formal lease or SLA would be agreed with the Town Council who would take over operational responsibility, and it was noted that this should include insurance.

The group were minded to approve the recommended company, however, also noted that Longridge was keen to see the delivery of both the pump track and the events space, the quotes for which were due back on 1st March.

5

CLITHEROE CASTLE

The Director of Economic Development and Planning asked the group to consider other potential UKSPF schemes in Clitheroe and noted that the atrium at castle had been empty for over twelve months, although it had previously been leased as a café.

The site was noted to be restrictive in size and access and it was suggested that under the feasibility studies criteria of the UKSPF, a soft market study exercise could be undertaken to establish the uses that the commercial market could offer.

The group also discussed the castle grounds and were minded to engage a landscape architect, to review the plantation and undergo geo-teching in order to establish a sustainable and cost-effective plan for the grounds.

As there were a number of considerations to be made in regard to the castle, it was also suggested that a Clitheroe Castle working group be proposed under the remit of Policy and Finance Committee.

The group recommended:

- The consideration of a soft market study exercise for the Atrium and wider Castle buildings
- Consultation with a landscape architect to evaluate the Castle grounds, and
- The proposal of a Clitheroe Castle working group which would evaluate the above projects going forward.

The meeting closed at 2.00 pm

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact the committee clerk, rebecca.hodgson@ribblevalley.gov.uk.