

## **BOROUGH, ECONOMY AND INFRASTRUCTURE EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD**

\* Councillor Jenny Wicks (Chairman)  
Councillor Liz Hogger (Vice-Chairman)

* Councillor David Bilbé	Councillor Julia McShane
Councillor Philip Brooker	* Councillor Bob McShee
Councillor Nils Christiansen	* Councillor Mike Parsons
Councillor Andrew Gomm	Councillor Mike Piper
* Councillor Angela Goodwin	Councillor Matthew Sarti

\*Present

### **BEI18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Philip Brooker, Nils Christiansen, Andrew Gomm, Liz Hogger, Julia McShane, Mike Piper and Matt Sarti.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 23(j), Councillors David Quelch, Adrian Chandler, Pauline Searle, Tony Phillips and Nigel Kearsse attended as substitutes for Councillors Philip Brooker, Nils Christiansen, Liz Hogger, Julia McShane and Matt Sarti.

Councillor Geoff Davis, Lead Councillor for Economic Development, Tourism and Heritage sent his apologies for whom Councillor Matt Furniss, Lead Councillor for Infrastructure and Environment attended as his substitute.

Councillors Angela Gunning, Dennis Paul, The Deputy Mayor, Gordon Jackson, Caroline Reeves and Honorary Alderman, Gordon Bridger were also in attendance.

### **BEI19 LOCAL CODE OF CONDUCT AND DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

No disclosures of interest were submitted.

### **BEI20 MINUTES**

The minutes of the Board meeting held on 22 February 2016 were confirmed subject to the inclusion of a question made by Councillor McShee, where he asked the Local Economy Manager, how many working farms were located within the Guildford Borough.

### **BEI21 THE FUTURE OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM**

The Chairman outlined the role of the Board in advising the Executive at an early stage about the formulation and development of policies and projects to help deliver Corporate Plan Priorities.

The Director of Environment gave a presentation on the Future of Guildford Museum including:

- an overview of the review process/reasons for the review;
- the findings of the Museum Working Group;
- an update on the negotiation process with the Surrey Archaeological Society (SAS);
- recommendations from Stuart Davies Associates (SDA);
- the location of the museum in the future;
- the action plan;

4 APRIL 2016

- the recommendations to the Executive on 19 April 2016 and any further discussion points for the Board:

The Heritage Manager also provided an overview of the Museum, highlighting the rich history of Guildford.

Prior to consideration of this item, the following person addressed the Board in accordance with Public Speaking Procedure Rule 3a (vi):

- Mr Gavin Morgan (Guildford Heritage Forum)

The Lead Councillor for Infrastructure and Environment addressed the Board. He congratulated the Director of Environment, the Heritage Manager and the Guildford Museum Working Group on the extensive work undertaken so far. A number of positive recommendations had been made that would underpin the future retention of Guildford Museum. Guildford had a rich history, culture and heritage and was important to recognise and celebrate.

The Board was invited to provide views/comment on the review so far and raised a number of points, including:

***Had the correct issues been looked at?***

- <sup>1</sup>\*Board members recommended and fully supported the creation of a 'Heritage Quarter'. The concept of telling the story of Guildford was key. By developing a Heritage Quarter a balance would be brought to the town for the future. As North Street developed, there was a danger that it would become a magnet away from the High Streets main shopping area. It was therefore important not to look at the museum in isolation but at how the 'Heritage Quarter' would be developed as a whole. Castle Cliff Gardens, Lewis Carroll's House and the Castle could be invested in, using relatively small sums of money that would further illustrate the story of Guildford's history as well as drawing attention to the improved museum facilities.
- Officers confirmed that a tender process was currently underway whereby materials, plants and street furniture would be looked at across the borough. More specifically, linkages would be explored between the Castle and the High Street, Tunsgate and Castle Street. Issues such as creating more pedestrian areas by portioning off Castle Street into a shared space and provide accessible paved links from the castle to Tunsgate would be explored. Local architects would be used therefore creating a real sense of place for Guildford.

***In relation to the report for the Executive, 19 April 2016, did the Board feel the report's draft structure and intended contents covered the relevant points that would enable the Executive to make the relevant decisions?***

The Board fully endorsed the following recommendations for the Executive to consider at their meeting on 19 April 2016.

- (1) That feasibility and costing report be commissioned for the proposed new build extension to the current Museum buildings and that the vision of developing an updated and exciting museum offering at that site be approved.

4 APRIL 2016

- (2) That the sum of £240,000 be transferred from the provisional capital programme (ED18(p) Museum and Castle Development scheme to the approved capital programme to carry out the work referred to in paragraph (1) above.
- (3) That the Director of Environment be authorised:
  - \* (i) to establish a Development Group, consisting of internal representatives and external partners, to assist in the delivery of improvements to the Museum; and
  - (ii) to develop a fundraising strategy and related fundraising committee with a view to identifying and securing external grants and funding for improvements to the Museum
- (4) That the Museum Working Group be requested to review and make recommendations on the future of the Victorian Schoolroom, including the possible sale of 39½ Castle Street should the Schoolroom be discontinued.
- (5) That the Action Plan be approved and that the Museum Working Group be requested to continue its work to deliver the Action Plan.
  - \*With reference to the formation of the Development Group, to invite 'The Guildford Society' to participate as members of that group as well as David Rose.
  - Officers confirmed that the formation of the Development Group was the key to moving forward on this project, subject to the approval by Executive, as well as approaching the right partners.

***How would the Board like to see Guildford's story told in the Museum?***

- Follow example of other major museums by obtaining sponsorship to fund exhibits to come out of the vaults, for the purpose of hosting especially themed exhibitions/ paintings/artists.
- Explore potential of incorporating Clandon Houses' military collection into Guildford Museum.
- Officers confirmed that discussions were currently taking place with a view for the military collection to be housed in the Guildford Museum.
- Explore potential to make railway exhibit currently on show in the museum operational and interactive as well as identifying how other exhibits could be made more of a participatory experience example given of using holographic technology. Partnerships and sponsorship were recommended to be sought with companies such as EA Games. These initiatives would make the museum more of an engaging experience for both adults and children.
- Celebrate Lewis Carroll's connection with Guildford, by running more Alice in Wonderland events.
- Officers confirmed that they worked closely with the Lewis Carroll Society with a view to running an exhibition every month.
- Celebrate the 1960's heritage of Guildford in relation to its music and homegrown artists.

- Development of a Heritage Quarter as referred to in <sup>1\*</sup>.
- The Board recognised the need to utilise signage effectively to market the 'Heritage Quarter' via pop-up adverts at the Lido, Guildford Station and the University of Surrey.
- Suggestion to show a film prior to entry to the cinema that established the context and background of the exhibits.
- The Board recognised the value of providing a shop that stocked good quality reproduction items for purchase as well as lesser-priced items for children. This would generate more revenue overall.
- Host themed exhibitions that cater for younger audiences and at key times such as school holidays.
- The Board also recognised the need to look at the long-term vision for the future of Guildford Museum and plug into what the public would want to see over the next 10-50 years.

***Did the EAB have any other comments in relation to the report/review?***

- Supported the retention of the current building location with improvements required.
- The Board recognised the advantage of providing a nice restaurant/cafeteria for members of the public.
- Board members noted the significant funding that other museums had received through heritage lottery funding such as Salisbury Museum, Maidstone Museum and Poole Museum. They were therefore able to provide exemplary displays. It was therefore important to be mindful of the funding restraints that the museum was subject to by comparison.
- Officers acknowledged that the Development Board was key to monitoring costs over the long term. Sponsorship would be pursued and enable the development to be undertaken incrementally.

The Board fully supported the recommendations for Executive's consideration on 19 April 2016 and subject to its approval, looked forward to the reinvention and development of Guildford Museum as part of Guildford's 'Heritage Quarter'.

**BEI22 TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION PLAN**

The Infrastructure Programme Director gave a presentation on the proposed Town Centre Regeneration Plan.

The Board noted the key findings of the Allied and Morrison Town Centre Regeneration Plan as well as key policy questions for the regeneration of Guildford town as a whole.

The Lead Councillor for Infrastructure and Environment endorsed the emerging proposed Town Centre Regeneration Plan. A Major Projects Team had been employed to deliver it and demonstrated Guildford Borough Councils commitment to upgrade its infrastructure. Key tasks involved introducing a phased traffic management system for the gyratory, identifying appropriate brownfield land to build houses on and providing additional car parking of which there was a deficit in Surrey overall. The Environment Agency was also working holistically with Guildford Borough Council to ensure the provision of adequate flood mitigation schemes. Surrey was the responsible authority in relation to flooding and had submitted a bid for funding to assist in this work.

The Board was invited to provide views/comment on the review so far and raised a number of points, including:

- the importance for infrastructure improvements to be made sympathetically and in character with Guildford Town. Supported the desire to create a 'living space' making full use of planting schemes to soften and enhance people's enjoyment of their surroundings.
- Supported the recommendation to open up the River Wey for the enjoyment of all incorporating a vibrant café/restaurant culture as well as quiet areas.
- Appreciated that a balance needed to be struck between creating more green space in town and meeting the overall housing need.
- Concerned in relation to whether the electricity grid was sufficiently networked to deal with the increased number of developments as well as concerns about the capacity of the sewage system.

The Lead Councillor for Infrastructure and Environment reported that the power capacity in Guildford was suitable for current demands. Businesses located in the west of Guildford had expressed an interest in obtaining more power. The Council was currently in dialogue with the UK Power Network so that the capacity of the grid could be increased in the future.

In relation to sewage control, the Council was working with Thames Water to reinforce pumping stations so that flood mitigation was effective from Ash to Effingham. In addition, a new sewage treatment plant was being looked at.

- Was pleased about the construction of new train stations in areas which were not serviced currently at Park Barn [Guildford West] and Merrow.
- A number of proposals had been put forward in relation to the delivery of train services via Cross Rail. The Board was interested to know if Cross Rail's proposals had been considered as part of the emerging town centre regeneration plan.

4 APRIL 2016

The Lead Councillor for Infrastructure and Environment confirmed that the Guildford Borough Council Transport Strategy included a full analysis and assessment of the railway network including Cross Rail.

- Was the Town Centre Regeneration Plan deliverable? In addition, was keen to know what plans were in place for the development and location of Guildford Bus Station and whether old town bridge would be upgraded.

The Lead Councillor for Infrastructure and Environment confirmed that the Town Centre Regeneration Plan would be delivered and was supported by the team that had been recruited to make it happen. This demand for improved infrastructure was driven by an increased need for retail space and housing bolstered by significant investment by the government.

The old town bridge would first need to be considerably strengthened in order to take the weight of modern day traffic. This was currently being reviewed. The intention was to pedestrianise Guildford as much as possible as well as providing sustainable methods of transport, introducing traffic calming schemes and a ring of car parks more centrally located. The provision of a bus service was being looked at more holistically so that rather than being focussed on one main bus station the ambition was to look at a bus service which involved the whole town.

- Could outdated and tired buildings such as the Telephone Exchange in Guildford, built in the 60's-70's be demolished. In addition, the two multi-storey buildings located at the foot of the Mount were identified as eyesores. It was confirmed that the buildings had been granted permission at appeal.

Officers confirmed that the BT Telephone Exchange was located on a strategic site, however, in terms of its removal, it was reliant upon the resolution between third party use and security issues.

- Recognised the increased reliance upon the internet by members of the public for their shopping needs. Had this scenario been taken into account when developing a long-term vision for the development of the retail sector in Guildford and balancing shopping behaviours.

The Lead Councillor for Infrastructure and Environment responded that whilst online retail activity was significant, there was still a large market for specific items that consumers wanted to experience in person. Acknowledged the importance of building flexibility into a retail model.

- Concerned that Guildford had been described as a 'growth town' in the Local Enterprise Plan (LEP), creating fears amongst local residents of Guildford becoming a business corridor. Development should rather be geared towards the needs of local residents and creating a vibrant place to live. Guildford's night-time economy would be bolstered by regeneration that would in turn assist in the management and self-policing of anti-social behaviour.

The Lead Councillor for Infrastructure and Environment understood the concerns raised and recognised that the terminology adopted of 'growth town' had not been adequately explained. It was essential that growth had to be both smart and sustainable.

- Was not appropriate to locate Head Quarter buildings in Guildford.

4 APRIL 2016

Officers confirmed that it was not envisaged that large businesses would locate their Head Quarters here in Guildford owing to the expense of labour.

- Concerned about the number of people increasingly living in small and cramped rooms. This was not a sustainable solution in the long-term. What controls could be put in place to help manage this effectively?

Officers' acknowledged that housing units and rooms were getting smaller overall. It was important for Councils to get involved and set policies that protected residents rights as well as the landlords.

The Board fully supported the proposals for the implementation and delivery of a Town Centre Regeneration Plan subject to Executive's approval at their meeting on 31 May 2016.

**BEI23 EAB WORK PROGRAMME**

As part of the EABs' development, the Chairman recommended the early involvement of relevant Lead Councillors in work items

The EAB,

RESOLVED: That the work programme, set out in the report submitted to the Board, be approved.

The meeting finished at 9:34pm

Signed .....

Date .....

Chairman