

**HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL**

**EXTRAORDINARY FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

This meeting took place under the terms of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 Sections Four and Five

**Present:** The Right Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Kath Hey and Councillors Stevens (Chair), Boulter, Dykes, Hornsey, Oliver, Toynbee and Wilcox.

**In attendance:** Steve Kerry Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer and Becci O'Reilly Committees, Events and Contracts Officer.

The Chair reminded everyone of the legal basis for the meeting being held by Zoom.

**FP2020/21.66 CONFIRMATION OF MEMBER ACCESS**

The Chair confirmed that all members could see and hear the proceedings and could be seen and heard.

**FP2020/21.67 CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC ACCESS**

It was confirmed that the meeting was being live streamed and was being recorded.

**FP2020/21.68 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were none.

**FP2020/21.69 SUBSTITUTIONS**

There were none.

**FP2020/21.70 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**FP2020/21.71 TOWN HALL TRUST LEGAL SUPPORT**

The Town Clerk gave an overview of his report regarding the formation of a Trust to asset transfer the Town Hall to. Encore, who will be partners in the Trust, have an existing relationship with Bates Well LLP solicitors in Bath who they have used successfully in the past for a similar situation, and as it is a specialised area of law, have suggested they have the appropriate knowledge to investigate the options. The Clerk's recommendation is to approve up to £5,000 for this process, and Encore have agreed to match it.

The Chair informed the group that he and Encore have attempted to seek advice from Herefordshire Council however this has been unsuccessful due to the officer's availability.

Members' discussions covered:

- Whether this figure would be enough to cover the process, and what this process is, however it was explained that the figure was difficult to predict but it is

believed to be sufficient currently. The brief is to advise on the setting up of a charitable trust, and the viability of options.

- Who would run the charitable trust and pay for the current renovations required? The Chair confirmed that Herefordshire Council have agreed to fund the urgent repairs and that as a Trust, monies that aren't available to Council's can be accessed for renovations.
- Herefordshire Council will not be putting any extra money in as they are handing it over as an asset.
- The Trust would receive rental income from Encore and City Council and additional room bookings from outside organisations.
- The Council's solicitors would check any suggestions made.

It was proposed by Councillor Wilcox, seconded by Councillor Hornsey and with one abstention

**RESOLVED**

**That the Clerk is authorised to agree with Encore to fund jointly the provision of legal services towards forming a Town Hall Trust, up to a limit of £5,000.**

**That it is acceptable to the Council for Encore to proceed with the legal firm with whom they already have an established relationship as they have demonstrated cost effective and quality work in this area.**

**FP2020/21.72 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021 returning to the usual time of 6 pm.

The Chair ended the meeting at 6.13 pm.

Signed .....

Date .....