



COWBRIDGE (ANCIENT BOROUGH)
with LLANBLETHIAN TOWN COUNCIL
CYNGOR TREF Y BONT FAEN
(Bwrdeistref Hynafol) gyda
LLANFLEIDDAN

Report on Hiraeth Survey and Budget Allocation

To: Town Hall Committee

From: Town Clerk, Cathy Kennedy

Date: 6th February 2024

Reason for Report:

This report provides an overview of the decision at the December Finance and Governance Committee, focussing on the approval of an invoice for the initial survey work carried out by Hiraeth Architecture. It outlines the financial implications, the decision to allocate funds from general reserves, and the Town Clerk's concerns regarding the absence of a budget for the survey and associated works. The report highlights the recommended caution in approving works associated with the survey recommendations without a designated budget and the subsequent steps taken to address urgent works identified in the survey.

Meeting Summary:

At the December meeting of the Finance and Governance Committee, an invoice amounting to £4,200 for the initial survey work carried out by Hiraeth Architecture was presented and approved for payment. It was noted that although the survey had been approved for activation, a budget had not been specifically allocated for the associated costs. Consequently, the decision was made to withdraw the funds from the general reserves to cover the expenses.

The Town Clerk expressed concerns regarding the approval of the survey without a designated budget. She emphasised the importance of exercising caution when approving any works related to the survey recommendations in the absence of an allocated budget. It was pointed out that urgent works identified in the survey amounted to £13,300, prompting the necessity for a budget allocation for the financial year 2024/25 to cover these costs.

Budgetary Measures:

To address the financial implications of the survey recommendations, a budget for 2024/25 has been agreed upon, with a specific focus on covering the urgent works identified. Due to members concerns with raising the Precept, the budget allocated, must be offset by grant income and it is hoped that Section 106 monies will be appropriate. In line with this, a working group has been established to explore the utilisation of Section 106 funds for the designated purposes.

Conclusion:

While the Finance and Governance Committee approved the payment for the initial survey, the Town Clerk's concerns regarding the lack of a budget for such initiatives were duly noted. The establishment of a budget for 2024/25, coupled with efforts to utilise Section 106 monies and the formation of a working group, reflects a proactive approach to addressing the financial implications of the survey recommendations.