

Agenda item:

Title of meeting: Culture, Leisure and Sport Decision Meeting

Date of meeting: 9 December 2016

Subject: Construction of a new Butterfly House at Cumberland House Museum

Report by: Director of Culture and City Development

Wards affected: All

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To obtain confirmation of the replacement of the Butterfly House at Cumberland House Museum.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the construction of a new butterfly house at Cumberland House Museum at an estimated cost of £130,000 funded from contributions from portfolio reserves be formally approved.

3. Background

3.1 The butterfly house at Cumberland House Museum has been in operation since the 1970's. It is a very popular attraction and draws many young families in to the museum.

3.2 Following a condition report in 2015, it became clear that the existing structure added to the museum to house butterflies in the mid 1970's, was beyond economic repair.

3.3 A further report conducted for the Friends of Cumberland House in 2015 by a butterfly expert, noted that the existing butterfly house was not suitable for butterflies and needed work to make it more butterfly friendly.

3.4 A series of communication events with visitors and Museum users were held over the summer of 2016. Feedback from these was 100% positive for the demolition and replacement of the butterfly house.

- 3.5 Information and feedback leaflets have been available at Cumberland House Museum since May 2016. The leaflet informed of the need to demolish and replace the Butterfly House and gave various avenues for feedback (email, text, written, phone) .This has had Polish and German translations also available. All feedback has been very supportive and encouraging.
- 3.6 The demolition of the 'ugly' existing Butterfly House addition was welcomed and people were generally concerned that the butterflies we house are in the best possible environment for them to thrive.
- 3.7 The addition of work to the garden to support conservation of native species was also heavily welcomed and seen to compliment the housing of tropical butterflies in the museum.
- 3.8 In November 2016 the contract for the demolition of the existing butterfly house was put out to tender and the process of demolition should be completed by the end of March 2017. Any necessary repairs and restoration work following demolition have been included in the demolition contract, as have remedial maintenance works to the inside of the main building.
- 3.9 An additional benefit of the demolition of the existing butterfly house addition is that the original rear façade of the building will again be visible to visitors to the garden and the Canoe Lake area. This was much supported in conversation with residents and visitors over the summer open days in the museum garden.
- 3.10 This funding will enable the completion of the building for the new facility and will support fundraising to enhance the experience for visitors and residents through planting, educational signposting and developing the garden itself as a native species habitat.
- 3.11 Further fundraising is required to enhance the new facility for visitors and butterflies. We need to make the facility visitor friendly (accessible and attractive) and suitable for the butterfly species that it will house. This will include structural planting, butterfly and caterpillar feeding plants and plants suitable for self-breeding of specific tropical species.
- 3.12 We have managed to secure support from the Canoe Lake Park Group to initiate a Crowdfunding bid for £25,000. We have also received an offer from Fyffes to fund the Puparium (value £800). The Friends of Cumberland House are also keen to support funding bids to support this venture.
- 3.13 The design of the interior will be enhanced by having funding available to make it an attractive space for visitors - for photographs etc.
- 3.14 We need to incorporate a water feature to support the high humidity level required for the butterflies which needs to be functional and attractive.

- 3.15 Signage will be important this will be both educational and informative supporting school's curriculum work and making the new facility valuable for schools and other educational visitors.
- 3.16 Signs will also be incorporated into works in the museum garden to encourage native species. This will include identification guides (for both caterpillars and butterflies).
- 3.17 The garden will be planted with feeding and breeding plants to encourage native species and to balance with the butterfly house.

4. Reasons for recommendations

4.1 The Butterfly House is a much loved city attraction for residents and visitors alike. The facility has been in operation since the mid 1970's and has been a traditional attraction for generations of families in the area and beyond. The facility adds greatly to the other exhibits at Cumberland House Museum and helps to engage children and adults in a love of natural history.

4.2 Butterfly Houses are not too common and this new facility will prove a good visitor attraction to the city, with all the benefits that brings.

The demolition and replacement of the butterfly house will enable the city environment and support city wide redevelopment and to make Portsmouth *a great place to live, work and visit.*

4.3 A new butterfly house will provide a much improved environment for both butterflies and visitors. In order to retain the attraction we need to invest in its future.

It is not only important to have the facility, but we need to ensure it provides the best possible environment for the butterflies and a good visitor experience. The option to replace the facility is the only solution that provides this outcome.

5. Equality impact assessment (EIA)

A preliminary EIA has been completed and there was found to be no negative impacts on service users.

6. Legal comments

6.1 Section 19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 contains wide powers enabling local authorities to provide within or outside their locality, such recreational facilities as they think fit. This section includes a non-exhaustive list of permitted purposes including social or recreational purposes for which the Council

may provide staff and facilities and the recreational facilities may be provided with or without payment.

- 6.2 Commissioners to ensure any contract awards follow the Council Contract Procedure Rule and the Public Contract Regulations (PCR) 2015 so far as its applicable.

7. Director of Finance

- 7.1 Works relating to the to the re-provision of the Butterfly House at Cumberland House will be carried out in two stages.
- 7.2 Stage 1 works are for the demolition of the existing butterfly house and the associated remedial works to the main building. The total cost will be £202,000 and this will be funded from the landlord maintenance budget.
- 7.3 Stage 2 works are for the re-provision of the butterfly house and are expected to cost £130,000, quotations are currently being sought for these works. Prior to any works commencing a capital appraisal will be prepared and approved by the S151 Officer and the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport.

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 Signed by:
Stephen Baily
Director of Culture and City Development

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Equality Impact Assessment

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
Condition Survey Cumberland House	Property Services
Expert report on existing butterfly house	Friends of Cumberland House
Photograph of original façade of rear Cumberland House	Museum Service
Contract for demolition of existing	Property Services



butterfly house Information Sheet (available at Cumberland House Museum)	Cumberland House Museum and via Rod McLean
Report on the summer communication fun days at Cumberland House Museum	Via Rod McLean

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/
rejected by on

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Signed by:
Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport