



Report to: Income Generation Sub-Committee, 9th October 2018

Report of: Corporate Director, Finance and Resources

Subject: REFERRAL REPORT FROM POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE 30TH JULY 2018 – ROWING BOATS ON THE RIVER SEVERN

1. Recommendation

1.1 That the Sub-Committee commissions a feasibility study into the introduction of rowing boats on the River Severn for pleasure use, to be funded from the Income Generation Fund.

2. Background

2.1 At the meeting on 30 July 2018, the Policy and Resources Committee considered a request from the Chairman, Councillor Stephen, relating to the reintroduction of rowing boats on the River Severn. The Chairman spoke on the item. He proposed that the Committee support the recommendations in the agenda report and agree to authorise another Committee or Sub-Committee to consider a feasibility study. Representations were also received from stakeholders who currently use the river or have experience of using it for this purpose.

2.2 The Committee agreed to endorse the proposal in the report relating to rowing boats on the River Severn, and agreed to refer the item to the Income Generation Sub-committee and to allocate up to £30,000 from the City Plan Fund to undertake feasibility work.

2.3 A copy of the Committee report is attached at **Appendix 1**. Paragraph 3.2 sets out the work that will need to be carried out to investigate this proposal in more detail.

3. Preferred Option

3.1 To undertake a feasibility study into the reintroduction of rowing boats on the River Severn. It is proposed that this is funded from the Income Generation Fund, rather than the City Plan Fund as it would form part of the wider Riverside Park development which will incorporate the work of the Income Generation Task & Finish Group, a report of which is elsewhere on the agenda.

3.2 The feasibility study will:

- Examine the viability of a secure and suitable pontoon at south quay
- Engage with relevant stakeholders and identify key issues, including existing licences and contractual arrangements relating to existing users
- Review other sites for comparative approaches (e.g. Stourport)
- Assess costs and income of any proposals

- Ensure that any proposed scheme is compatible with the Riverside Park development and Masterplan.

4. Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 Not to undertake the feasibility study. There were arguments both in favour and against the proposal raised at the Policy and Resources Committee on 30 July. Without a feasibility study the issues raised cannot be assessed in detail and it is difficult to draw a conclusion as to whether the proposal should be taken any further.

5. Implications

5.1 Financial and Budgetary Implications

The proposed budget for the feasibility study is £30,000. The Income Generation Fund, which was created to provide resources for identifying and developing income-generation opportunities, currently has an expected balance, after all existing commitments, of £139,797 at 31 March 2019.

5.2 Legal and Governance Implications

There are no legal implications identified at this stage. Current arrangements governing use of the riverside and relevant licences will need to be considered as part of the feasibility study.

5.3 Risk Implications

The feasibility study will identify any risks related to the proposal and present an assessment of such risks as part of its report to the Sub-committee.

5.4 Corporate/Policy Implications

Increased or enhanced use of the riverside forms part of the City Plan themes *Sustaining and Improving our Assets* and *A Healthy and Active City*. Increasing income through enhanced use of the City's natural assets forms part of the aims of the Council's *Commercial Strategy* approved by the Committee on 16 January 2018 and draft *Income Generation Strategy* which is presented elsewhere on the agenda.

5.5 Equality Implications

None identified at this stage.

5.6 Human Resources Implications

None arising from this report.

5.7 Health and Safety Implications

The feasibility study will identify any health and safety issues related to the proposal and present an assessment of these as part of its report to the Sub-Committee.

Wards: Cathedral, Claines, Arboretum, St Clement, St John, Bedwardine
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Background Papers: None.