



Report to: Policy and Resources Committee, 30th July 2018

Report of: Monitoring Officer

Subject: ROWING BOATS ON THE RIVER SEVERN

1. Recommendation

1.1 That the Committee endorses the proposal in this report relating to rowing boats on the River Severn; and

1.2 That the Committee allocates up to £30,000 from the City Plan Fund to undertake feasibility work.

2. Background

2.1 The Monitoring Officer has received a request from Councillor Stephen to place an item relating to the reintroduction of rowing boats on the River Severn on the agenda of the next available meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.

2.2 In accordance with Committee Procedure Rule 9.3, this report sets out a summary of the matter that has been raised for the Committee to consider.

3. Proposal relating to rowing boats on the River Severn

3.1 It is proposed that the City Council investigates how rowing boats could be re-introduced to the River Severn in Worcester. The aspiration is to create a healthy and entertaining facility for local residents and tourists. In addition there is the potential for the proposal to bolster the City's tourism offer. The re-introduction of rowing boats could draw people down to the riverside and complement the existing and planned riverside developments.

3.2 The following work will need to be carried out to investigate this proposal in more detail:

- Market research to determine the demand and price points for hiring the boats for a future relaunch;
- The evaluation of the merit of different positions along the riverside for the new business;
- Consideration and evaluation of the options for different legal / commercial operating models for the venture, i.e. Council owned and operated, Council owned but operated by a third party, wholly owned and operated by a third party;
- Soft market testing of potential operators; and

- Research into the capital costs needed to build a pontoon and other associated infrastructure costs, as well as the costs to buy boats, oars and life jackets.
- 3.3 It is recommended that a consultant is appointed to carry out a feasibility study to investigate the matters set out in the preceding paragraph. This would include engagement with a Task and Finish Group, which will have responsibility for the oversight of this work. An options and feasibility report will need to be prepared by a consultant for consideration by the Committee. It is hoped that this work can be progressed so that the Committee receives a report at its October meeting.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial and Budgetary Implications

It is proposed that the feasibility work is funded from the City Plan fund.

4.2 Legal and Governance Implications

As noted above, the feasibility work would need to consider the legal/commercial operating models for this proposal.

4.3 Risk Implications

None directly arising from this report

4.4 Corporate/Policy Implications

The proposal in this report will support City Plan Theme 3 – A Healthy and Active City.

4.5 Equality Implications

None directly arising from this report.

4.6 Human Resources Implications

None directly arising from this report.

4.7 Health and Safety Implications

None directly arising from this report.

Ward(s): All wards
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Background Papers: None