

## CORN EXCHANGE WORKING PARTY

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**Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**Title:** Corn Exchange Phase Two Update

**Contact Officer:** Venue Manager - Tomas Smith

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### Background

Work is being undertaken to prepare the Corn Exchange for reopening after the Covid-19 pandemic

### Current Situation

#### Café/Bar

The initial work for the new café and bar named '1863' has begun with both the plumber and electrician having been in to undertake their work. This has involved relocating a radiator in the lobby, installing a water feed from the small kitchen into the lobby to plumb into the coffee machine, and the relocation of the plumbed in hot water boiler from the small kitchen to the larger kitchen, this final move will benefit the groups who had been asking for this facility. We have also removed the hot water urn and Buildrite have been commissioned for the creation of the bar with construction starting off-site.

As requested in the previous Corn Exchange Working Party meeting, contact was made with the Council's preferred bar furniture supplier and cost details are enclosed in the confidential appendix to this report.

A Project Plan for this project is included for information as Appendix A.

#### Website and Identity

Rumbl Ltd, the chosen provider to build the website and develop a visual identity for the Corn Exchange have been commissioned and started to progress this project. An initial phone consultation about the look which may suit the Council's vision of the Corn Exchange when completed its redevelopment, has taken place. Draft ideas are attached as Appendix B and a second selection has been requested to include some of the history and architectural features from the front of the building.

We are also in the process of starting to write the content for the website to include history of the Hall, information about the facilities and general location information. This will be an ongoing process and one that can be added to at any time.

## Seating

A decision on the retractable seating in the Corn Exchange Main Hall would be beneficial to move on with the next stage of the refurbishment. The Council's proposed supplier has been identified and has provided a quote and design which is the best suited moving forward. It gives the Corn Exchange a professional look and flexibility required for the Hall and could be installed in time for our festive season. Quote and design attached as Appendix C.

**Members should note when considering these quotes and plans to be agreed for retractable seating, that there may be an (as yet) unknown associated cost to infrastructure of the hall for these works to take place.**

## Audio and Lighting

Due to the pandemic, theatre and local hall research and a guided tour as suggested by Henley Theatre Services has not been possible. This was to be the next part of establishing what audio and visual equipment we needed to include in the Corn Exchange as it would show us exactly what this supplier was capable of delivering as well as crystallising our plan with regard to first fit and essential works.

## **Environmental impact**

All works being undertaken are being monitored to ensure they cause the minimal environmental impact. The bar is being made locally from a sustainable source and all other works are

## **Risk**

In decision making Councillors should consider any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

## **Financial implications**

All proposed and commissioned works have been budgeted for at a previous meeting of this Working Party.

## **Recommendations**

Member are invited to note the report and consider the following:

- The quotes for furniture in '1863' as set out in the confidential appendix
- The draft visual identity proposals from Rumb
- The plans and quotes for retractable seating in the Main Hall