

Policy & Resources Committee

Title:	Thame Museum
Date:	19 July 2022
Contact Officer:	Andrea Oughton, Asset Manager

Action Required

1. To consider a request from Thame Museum Trust to submit a planning application (Full & Listed Building) to extend the Museum.

Background

2. Thame Museum Trust leases the Old Court House facility from the Council. The lease expires on 31 March 2032.
3. Consent is required from the Council for any alteration or addition to the property and any development.
4. Planning applications (P16/S3188/LB and P16/S3187/FUL) to demolish the 1980s extension and build a single storey extension with internal alterations to provide new entrance, foyer, library, storage, including new steps and ramp externally to the street were granted permission on 31 January 2017. These applications have now lapsed.
5. The museum building lacks storage space, the entrance area gets crowded during busy periods with visitors coming into the museum for the shop, exhibitions and general enquiries. The proposed extension would allow for a reconfiguration of the existing galleries and rooms and an improved street presence to attract more visitors to the museum.
6. The Museum Trust is developing an improved culture of being more involved with the local community and other partners / groups including; school groups, Taste of Thame, Midsomer Murders, exhibitions on things of local interest e.g. Robin Gibb.
7. Thame Museum Trust is proposing to resubmit the planning applications that were granted permission in 2017.

Resource Appraisal

8. There are insufficient funds held by the Thame Museum Trust to self-finance the project which is estimated at £500k-£600k.
9. Thame Museum Trust will be applying for grant funding from several sources including South Oxfordshire District Council and National Lottery Heritage Fund.
10. To proceed Thame Museum Trust has requested initial funding of £500 from the Council to cover professional fees required for the necessary work by the architect to submit full and listed building applications.

Risk Assessment

11. Thame Museum Trust may request additional funding from the Council if planning permission is granted.
12. In 2016 the Council agreed to allocate £10k from Capital Reserves to get to Planning Permission, £7898.74 was spent.

Legal Powers

Local Government Act 1972 s144

Recommendation:

- i) ***That consent is given to Thame Museum Trust to develop the property as per lease obligations.***
- ii) ***To consider the request from Thame Museum Trust for £500 funding as detailed in the report to enable planning applications to be submitted.***