

AGENDA ITEM 7i**General Manager's Overview**
MONTHLY REPORT DEC 24
Council Project based Summary***Guildhall Refurbishment***

Project update:

- No progress has been made with regard to actioning the completion of the main build capital programme. The Council will now commission the works direct using the residual contract sums to close out this project.
- Officers/Cllrs have attended a Heritage Alliance Meeting on 13th November and arranged a Heritage Quarter Meeting on 26th November (main focus around common branding for the Heritage Quarter). A further Heritage Quarter Meeting has been scheduled for January to discuss planning an event relating to the VE Celebrations for the 8th May 2025. The Council will also again install a Beacon on Whitchurch Down.
- A positive meeting was held with WHS representatives on 9th Dec and the operating arrangements/approach for 25/26 were outlined. In addition, discussions were held around how the WHS could actively promote Tavistock Guildhall and the Town as a 'keycentre'.
- The Museum of Policing in Devon and Cornwall are holding another exhibition in January 2025, theme 'Men in Policing'.
- The facility will be closed from 21st Dec, reopening on 14th January, consistent with last year's approach. A full deep clean, minor property maintenance and repairs to the black box interpretation units have been scheduled/actioned during the closure.

Guildhall toilets provision

Project update:

- Officers will arrange a meeting with partners in first quarter of 2025 on receipt of information requested in mid-2024 relating to data pertaining to the management and maintenance of the asset. (this information has again been requested week commencing 16th Dec as this will inform next steps relating to procurement process).

Museum Structural Works

Project update:

- A meeting was held with GY Architects, landlord and tenant on 20th Nov to discuss some localised building management challenges pertaining to damp, settlement and lath and plaster ceiling repairs with landlord expectations outlined.

Operational Update

- Several meetings have been held with the Abbey Remains Project Group with a draft grant application to NLHF almost finalised for approval by Council. A report will follow outlining the Councils potential obligations specific to accountable body status and capital management/oversight. Part of the project funding has been earmarked to improve the interpretation within the Guildhall and a meeting was held recently with an interpretation consultant to discuss options/costings. Outside of the remit of the project funding, to assist with future applications, the Council commissioned a review of the condition survey for the Still House Tower which was completed in Dec 24.
- Following a meeting held on 7th November with representatives of Taviskate/Youth Café to discuss next steps with the procurement of the wheeled sports facility the final draft of the tender documents has been agreed with the aim to advertise the contract within the first quarter of 2025. A report will follow outlining the Councils potential obligations specific to financial management and capital oversight.
- A further update relating to compliance progress will follow at the next Full Council committee cycle.
- Works are scheduled to repair the Market Road Retaining wall in February 25. All necessary remedial actions have been undertaken to secure the site and provide temporary flood defence. In addition to the above, Members will be aware of the damage arising from the storms to Abbey Walk. As previously advised, the walkway has now been reopened with temporary guardrails installed and the repairs to the river bank will be aligned with the Market Rd retaining wall repairs to reduce on prelim costs.
- Discussions are ongoing regarding arrangements for a licence holder at MOC to ensure that the operations are safe and compliant, recognising the fact that the area in question is a working site.
- An expression of interest has been submitted, on behalf of the Council, to participating in the Walkham Valley Round 2 Landscape Recovery Project on a without prejudice basis <https://defrafarming.blog.gov.uk/2023/11/29/round-two->

December 24

General Manager

[projects/](#) (Environmental Land Management Scheme) to identify if there is the potential to support ecological, hydrological and/or other environmental benefits on Council owned open land, also linking to the review of the Whitchurch Down Management Plan.

Yours Sincerely



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General Manager