

## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 19 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
<b>Report Subject</b>	Flint Foreshore Regeneration
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Economic Development Cabinet Member for Education
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Strategic Programmes)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Further to the work led by Welsh Government on a masterplan for Flint Foreshore and the proposals for a piece of public art at Flint Castle, Flintshire County Council and Flint Town Council jointly entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Welsh Government to ensure that the next stage of any proposals were developed with full local ownership.

The results of this work are a Flint Foreshore Feasibility Study and a Flint Castle Art Research and Development Report. The former includes detailed work on a joint facility and visitor centre adjacent to the castle and shared and operated by the Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI), Flint Rugby Club and Flint Football Club. The art report after research and engagement with local residents and schools identifies key themes for a major piece of public art sited at or around Flint Castle.

The original Memorandum of Understanding proposed funding from Welsh Government in 2018/19 to take both pieces of work to a next stage of development including work on detailed design and development of the joint facility, and installation of a major piece of public art at Flint Castle. This report recommends progress on both these pieces of work with a recognition that the Council is only one partner in this work, and that progress will be subject to the other partners' agreement.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1	To accept the findings of the feasibility report on the regeneration of the Flint Foreshore and to progress to more detailed work including: detailed design and development; development of the capital funding package; detailed business planning.
2	To accept the findings of Flint Castle Art Research and Development report and to progress to development of a major piece of public art sited at or around Flint Castle.

## **REPORT DETAILS**

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE FLINT FORESHORE REGENERATION</b>
1.01	<p>The Flint Foreshore Feasibility Study develops the proposals for a joint visitor centre for the castle, lifeboat station, and sports and social facility for the local rugby and football clubs. It considers in detail the needs, constraints and consents of the site, concept proposals, a landscape masterplan, outline capital costs and funding, headline income and expenditure estimates, deliverability and governance, and the overall business case and next steps. This work has been overseen by a stakeholder group including: Welsh Government (CADW); Flintshire County Council; Flint Town Council; Flint RNLI; Flint Football Club; Flint Rugby Club.</p>
1.02	<p>The main findings and conclusions from the feasibility report are summarised as follows. That the facility fits with the needs of local people, current visitors, and local, regional and national strategic plans. Connectivity of the key elements of the building including the lifeboat station, visitor centre, sports and social facility, work together but present challenges in terms of the size of the building required to accommodate all the space requirements.</p> <p>The estimated costs for the larger facility that all partners are satisfied with is £6.3m (exclusive of VAT). The potential funding sources at this stage are estimated to be in the region of £3.9m. There is a gap in the capital funding package and this needs to be addressed through either/or reducing the scale of the facility or reducing the capital costs of the design or identifying additional capital funding sources.</p> <p>Partners have identified that in terms of governing and managing the facility that the preferred legal model is a new co-operative company/charity made up of the three key delivery organisations and that individual partners lead the operation of individual elements of the site. Revenue costs and income have been identified for an operating model including full time staff and that this shows at present an annual operating deficit of between £0.007m and £0.02m. There is a gap in the revenue finance and this needs to be addressed through either/or reducing expenditure or increasing income.</p> <p>The next key stages of work to address the risk and issues are to review in detail the design of the larger scheme and a potential smaller scheme, undertake detailed business planning work and develop funding applications.</p>
1.03	<p>The Flint Castle Art Research and Development report details the engagement and consultation activities and findings, outlining the strongest foreshore stories that have emerged and key themes for any major public art development in the future. The level of engagement and consultation has been significant with 760 people visiting the ‘Story Shop’ on the high street, 250 pupils from 6 schools taking part in drama workshops acting out scenes from the town’s history, 52 people visiting a market stall to talk about the role and potential of public art, over 70 people being engaged through workshops with local organisations.</p>
1.04	<p>The main findings and conclusions from the report can be summarised as follows. Local people are proud of the town’s history, there is a desire to see Flint ‘put on</p>

	<p>the map', and an art installation could help achieve this. The overarching theme that links the stories of the foreshore together has been the River Dee which has always been and continues to be the lifeblood of the town, underneath this the strongest foreshore stories are of Flint as:</p> <p>(1) A Place to Live and Work - Fish and Fishing, Below the Line – A Lost Community, Shipping; Soldiers and Royal Welsh Fusiliers; Flint Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI).</p> <p>(2) A Place to Play – Children, Sport, Walking and Cycling.</p> <p>(3) A Place to be Proud of and Cherish – Castle, Birdlife, Tranquil and Peaceful Riverside</p> <p>Key findings in relation to the idea of public art are that people want to be included in any large-scale public art process; it needs to be used as a way of bringing people together and be inclusive; humour subversion and play should be part of any artwork; the stories of the foreshore should be the basis for the public art; and the use of foreshore shapes and sounds should be included in any piece of public art.</p> <p>As part of this piece of work three benches or story seats will be created and placed on the foreshore each with a carved character that will represent a story from the work.</p> <p>Momentum from this work is key and the next steps should include an exhibition in the library of the work and the stories; presentation of the plays at the Flint Festival; commissioning of the major public art work based on the stories identified in this report.</p>
1.05	As part of the MOU Welsh Government committed to finding funding in 2018/19 to fund the next stage of both pieces of work. Therefore it is proposed to proceed with the way forward in both reports.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
4.01	No implications at this stage

<b>5.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
5.01	Detailed consultation with partners and the community as identified in this report.

<b>6.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
6.01	<p>Key Risks and Mitigation are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lack of public ownership of the joint facility development and the public art – the detailed engagement and consultation already undertaken will continue in the next stage of work.</li> <li>2. The joint facility is too expensive or is not sustainable to be developed and</li> </ol>

	<p>operated – the next stage of work will ensure that this consideration is assessed in detail and at the end of this work further work will only take place if this risk has been addressed.</p> <p>3. The major piece of public art work will be controversial and will damage the reputation of partners involved – the public art will be based on the foreshore stories which have been identified by the local community and will therefore have local support.</p>
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<b>7.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
7.01	None.

<b>8.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
8.01	<p>Flint Foreshore Feasibility Study          Flint Castle Art Research and Development Report</p> <p><b>Contact Officers:</b> Ian Bancroft  <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 704511  <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:ian.bancroft@flintshire.gov.uk">ian.bancroft@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>

<b>9.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
9.01	<p><b>Public Art</b> - A piece of art work placed in a public space.</p> <p><b>Memorandum of Understanding</b> – A none binding agreement setting out principles for joint working</p>