

Appendix A7 Q1 – ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE

Key Activities

Following the successful environment conference in 2018, develop and implement an environment action plan, by December 2019, that defines our commitment to protect our environment, improve green infrastructure and identify potential for growth of the green economy.

An update will be provided in September 2019.

Work towards the delivery of a new record office

The Stage 2 report was submitted in early May 2019. This included a review of the physical fire compartmentation within the building, specific premises fire strategy and risk assessment to inform the technical design of the required upgrades needed and a fully developed building services outline specification (Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) stage 3). The second stage information also included a detailed cost appraisal which will be used to inform funding bids for the project. The total cost of the project is £4m.

A meeting was held with officers from the National Archive on 23 May 2019 to discuss the preferred option for a record office and options around a larger facility potentially including a heritage centre, art gallery, conference centre, shop, cafe and digitalisation suite.

It has since been agreed by the Record Office project board to pursue the initial preferred option to provide a new record office at an estimated cost of £4m; accordingly, a capital bid has been prepared and submitted for 2020/21. It should be noted that the bid is for 2020/21 as the Council has to evidence that it has its match funding in place when applying for external grants; however given the typical time for a funding bid to be developed and considered, it is likely that work on site would not commence until 2022/23.

Develop a rights of way strategy for the Island, promoting riding, cycling and walking.

Rights of Way improvement plan has been produced after period of consultation with key stakeholders. Local Cycling and Walking Strategy has reached Stage 5 - prioritisation of infrastructure improvements along key routes within Ryde and Newport has been completed. These routes have been selected by local steering groups. Prioritisation process of these works will involve Island Roads and link closely with Transforming Cities application, regeneration programme and emerging new planning policy.

Support the AONB Partnership with their work in maintaining and enhancing the Isle of Wight's UNESCO Biosphere designation.

UNESCO Biosphere status was awarded 19 June 2019, and work is now being undertaken to establish a steering committee and create a number of partnerships and projects.

By the summer of 2020, secure the future of the Island's geological collection by working with regeneration and investment partners on the future of Dinosaur Isle.

New priority – update in quarter 2.