

FUTURE OF THE ANGEL CENTRE, TONBRIDGE

Item FRP 23/27 referred from Finance, Regeneration and Property Scrutiny Select Committee of 14 November 2023

Members' in-principle views were sought on the future of the existing Angel Centre building as part of the Borough Council's work to review its land and property assets in Tonbridge town centre.

Members recognised that, due to age, design and the changing nature of leisure provision, the Angel Centre had reached the point of requiring substantial investment in both plant and equipment and building fabric to remain fit for purpose in the long term. In addition, significant further investment would be required to reduce the carbon footprint of the building to achieve the Council's carbon neutral aspirations for its leisure facilities. From a cost saving perspective, actions needed to take place as soon as possible in view of the huge ongoing maintenance expenses.

It was emphasised by the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Regeneration and Property that it was only a preference on the in-principle option that was sought from Members at this stage, which information would then be incorporated into the option appraisals to be developed by the consultant company MACE as part of their Phase 2 report, to be presented to the Committee for consideration at a future meeting.

Having regard to the operational, building fabric and climate change considerations, as well as views expressed by the Leisure Trust and the financial implications, Members noted the pros and cons of both refurbishment and new facility options respectively and took into account the legal implications set out in Annex 1.

RECOMMENDED*: That

- (1) in principle, all options be kept on the table for the future of the leisure centre, including demolishing and rebuilding it elsewhere.

***Recommended to Cabinet**