

Report from the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee

Portfolio:	Finance
Ward(s) Affected:	all

Purpose:

To note the proposed actions of the Performance & Finance Scrutiny Committee in relation to the motion referred to it by the Council in July 2020 and consider a request for a budget to undertake this work.

1. Background

- 1.1. The Council at its meeting on 22 July 2020 agreed to refer a motion concerning historic property acquisitions to the Performance & Finance Scrutiny Committee.

2. Response to the Motion and Proposed Further Actions

- 2.1. The Committee considered the motion at its meeting on 9 September 2020. Having discussed the matter at length, it was agreed that concerns raised that there had been insufficient information available at the time for Members to make a fully informed decision on the Mall's purchase did warrant further investigation and that the information provided in the relevant reports and workshops ought to be reviewed in order to inform future decision making.
- 2.2. It was agreed that a Member Task and Finish Group should be established to review the information and advice available at the time of the decision and a progress update be given to the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 25 November 2020.
- 2.3. It was also agreed that a budget of up to £40,000 would be requested in order to procure an external consultant to complete a desk top review of the property acquisitions set out in Annex B to the Performance & Finance Scrutiny Committee report.

3. Options

- 3.1. The Council has the option to agree a budget of up to £40,000 for the proposed work, not agree a budget, or propose an alternative amount.

4. Resource Implications

- 4.1. At the Committee meeting it was clarified that the projected £110,000 cost of the budget required for all stages of the work set out in the Motion, as referred to in the Council meeting, was made up of a mix of external consultant costs and officer time. Of this it was felt that officer time would take up approximately £50,000. It was suggested that a funding request for up to £40,000 be made to Council to pay for the services of an external consultant

to complete a desk top review of the property acquisitions set out in Annex B of the report.

4.2. The Committee is therefore requesting a budget of up to £40,000 to complete the proposed work.

5. Recommendation

5.1. The Council is advised to RESOLVE that

- (i) The Performance & Finance Scrutiny Committee's response to the motion referred to it by the Council be noted; and
- (ii) a budget of up to £40,000 be agreed for the provision of an external consultant to complete a desk top review of the property acquisitions set out in Annex B to the Performance & Finance Scrutiny Committee report.

Annexes	None
Background Papers:	None
Author:	Katharine Simpson – Senior Democratic Services Officer katharine.simpson@surreyheath.gov.uk
Executive Head of Service:	Richard Payne – Executive Head of Corporate