

Agenda Item 11

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Report

Subject : The Future of the Town Scheme Budget

Report to : The Cabinet

Date : Wednesday 25 February 2009

Author : Programme Director

Cabinet Member for Planning: Councillor Paul Clegg

1. Report Summary:

1.1 Approximately £64,000 is left in the Council's Town Scheme account (otherwise known as the Historic Building Joint Committee). This report makes recommendations to the Implementation Executive regarding the future of the funds beyond April 2009.

2. Background:

2.1 The Town Scheme was set up to help keep the listed buildings in Salisbury's city centre weather tight and in good repair by providing grants to help meet the costs of repair.

2.2 In the past, the Historic Building Joint Committee oversaw spending from the fund. The Committee was wound up in 2001 and since that time no further expenditure has been made.

Town Scheme Criteria

2.3 All listed buildings in the city centre are eligible for Town Scheme grants, but not buildings in the Close.

2.4 The primary purpose of the grant is to achieve the repair of those parts of a building that provide structural stability and give protection from the weather. When the structure is in good order, consideration can be given to the repair and reinstatement of historic details. The work must be carried out using natural or traditional materials.

3. Proposals For Transfer And Use Of Remaining Funds:

3.1 To ensure it is used in line with the purpose for which the fund was set up, it is proposed that the Implementation Executive transfers the remaining funds on the 1 April to the Charter Trustees, with the proviso that they are used in line with the criteria of the town scheme.

The Guildhall

3.2 Given the length of time these funds have lain dormant and the need to ensure they are used for their intended purpose, officers have identified a proposal in line with the town scheme criteria, relating to the Guildhall.



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- 3.3 The Guildhall was built in 1788 and is a listed Grade II* in recognition of its particular importance as a building of special architectural or historic interest. In 1991 a major refurbishment project was undertaken.
- 3.4 Cabinet has approved a further major refurbishment of the Guildhall. Plans are in place to undertake this work, which will be funded through the City Council. In developing the refurbishment plan, Salisbury District Council commissioned a number of condition surveys, including a survey to establish the condition of the internal and external masonry.
- 3.5 The surveys highlighted a number of concerns in relation to external features which need to be addressed as a priority, but are outside of the existing refurbishment plans and budget provision.
- 3.6 The estimated cost of these repairs is in the region of £40,000 to which needs to be added the cost of full access scaffolding and temporary platform lifts. Due to the location of the repairs, on all elevations and generally at high level, scaffolding costs could be in the order of £25,000. These works could be started in the next financial year 2009/10.
- 3.5 Given the historical importance of the Guildhall and its importance to the city, it is proposed that Cabinet recommend these proposals to the Charter Trustees for consideration.

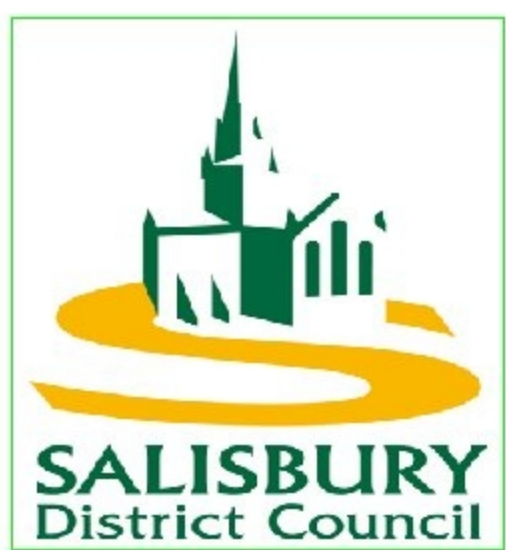
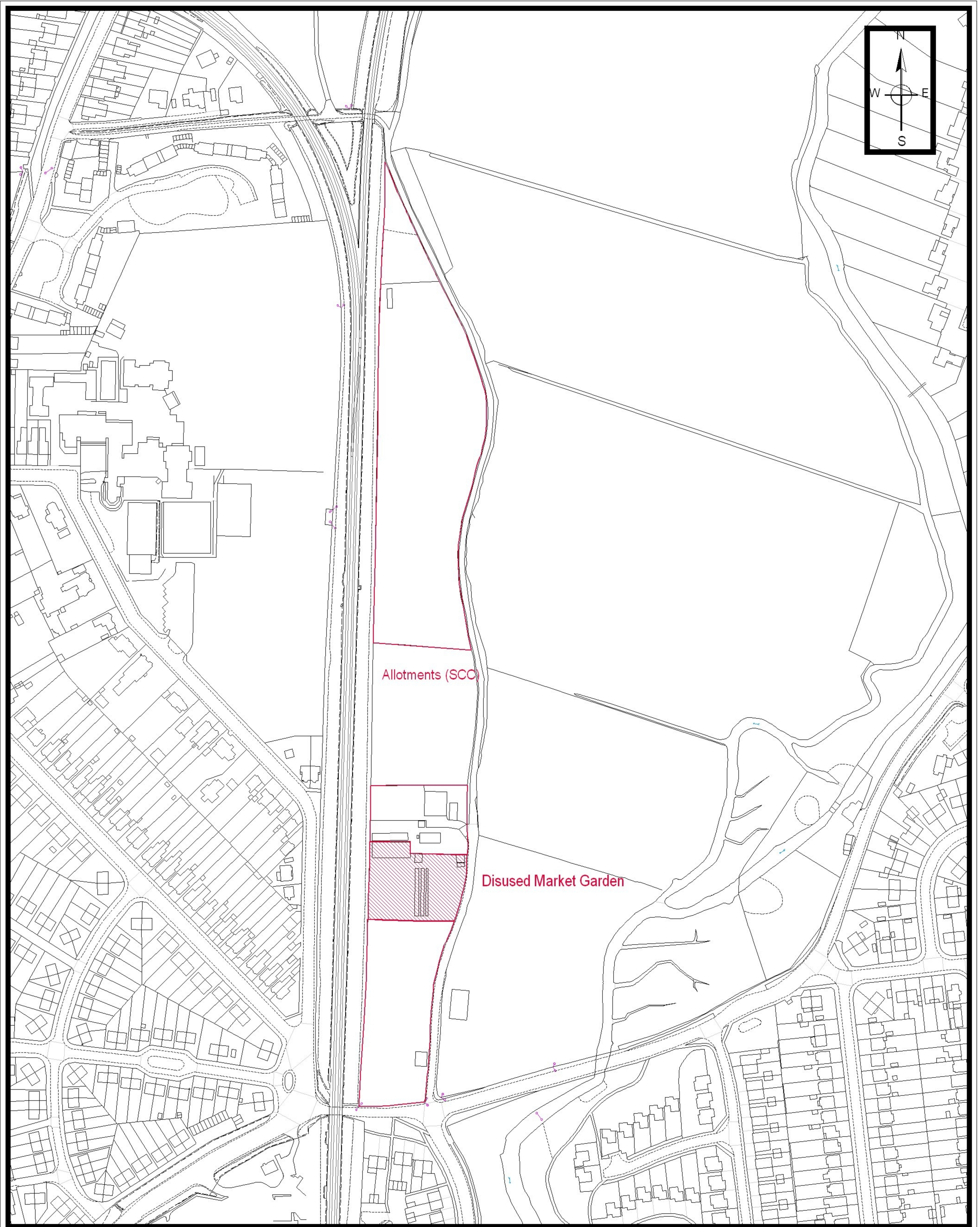
4. **Recommendations:**

- 4.1 The Cabinet recommends to the Implementation Executive that it transfers the town scheme funds to the Charter Trustees on the 1 April 2009.
- 4.2 The Cabinet recommends to the Charter Trustees that they consider the proposed urgent external works to the Guildhall for funding through the town scheme budget, when it has transferred to them

5. **Background Papers:** None

6. **Implications:**

- **Financial:** The recommendations contained in the report can be met from existing funds.
- **Legal:** The fund, although named as a joint committee fund, has not had external funding for over 7 years. An unspecified but small amount of county council funding may remain, but may be spent by the district council according to the original terms of the fund. Effectively it is now part of the Council's budget framework. Although restrictions on its use have been agreed it is possible for the Council to change them in accordance with changed priorities, considering all relevant considerations. It is relevant here to note that the fund has not been spent for several years and there will be great difficulties in committing it before 1st April. If the funding is not spent it will transfer to the successor council, who will decide on its allocation. The views of this executive will be a relevant consideration when the new parish council is in existence.
- **Human Rights:** N/A
- **Personnel:** Officer time.
- **Climate Change:** N/A
- **Community Safety:** N/A
- **Environmental:** N/A
- **ICT:** N/A
- **Equalities:** N/A
- **Council's Core Values:** Being environmentally conscientious.
- **Wards Affected:** Salisbury wards.



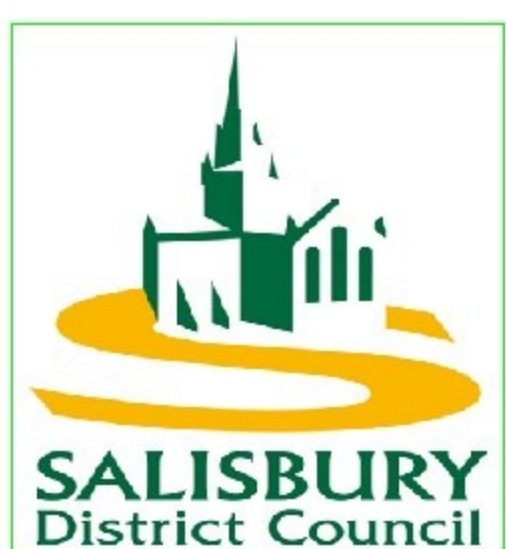
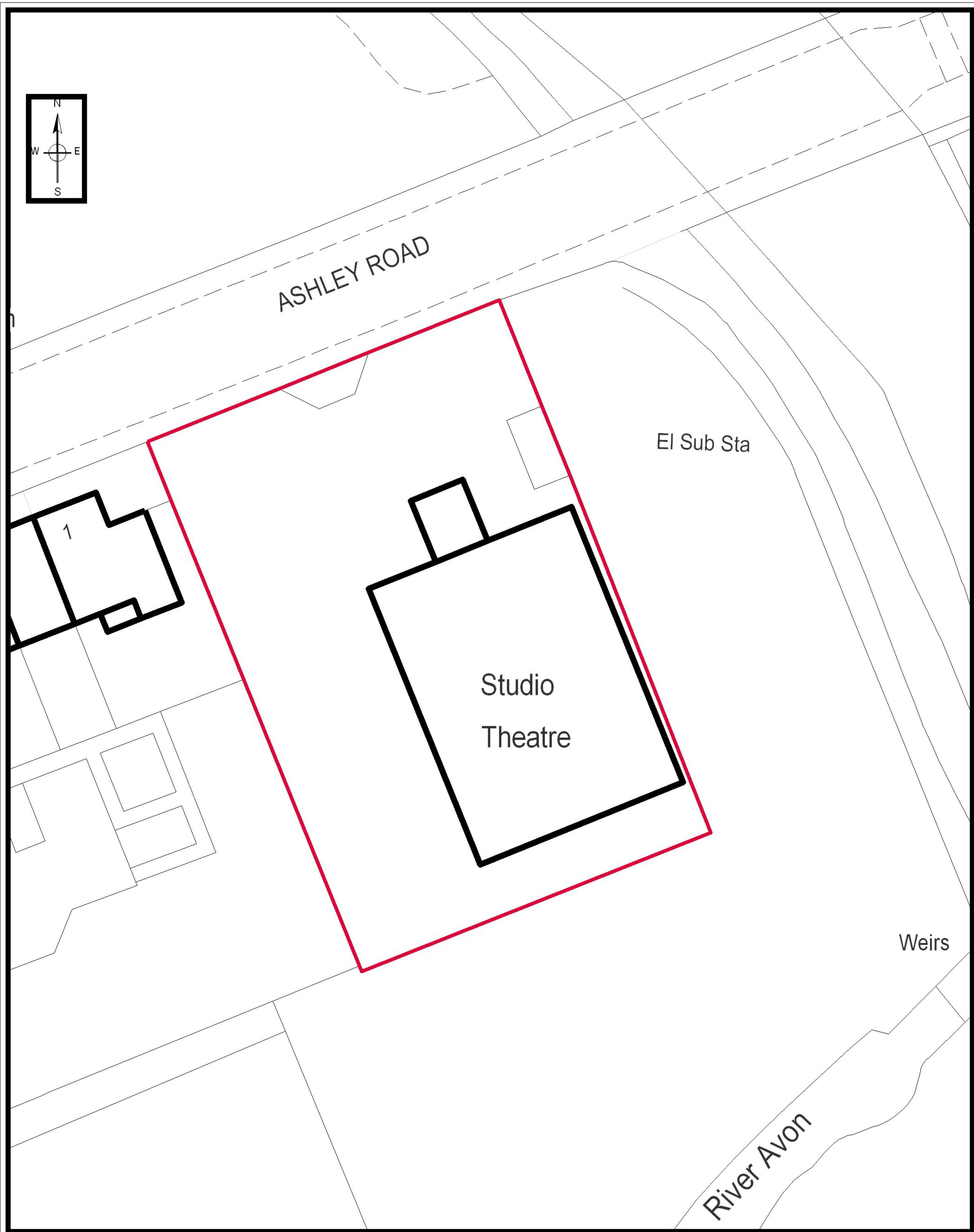
Appendix A - Cow Lane

SCALE: 1:3200 (A4)

DATE: February 2009

DEPARTMENT: Legal and Property

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Appendix B - Studio Theatre

SCALE: 1:400 (A4)

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