

# REPORT

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**Councillor Warrander : Cabinet Member for Resources**

## GUILDHALL CONSULTATION EXERCISE

### 1. Matters for consideration:

Cabinet is requested to consider the options put forward as part of the public consultation exercise for the future of the Guildhall once the Magistrates vacate the building.

### 2. Introduction and Background:

- The Magistrates will be re-locating to the proposed new combined Courthouse on Wilton Road, Salisbury and it is currently anticipated that they will be leaving the Guildhall during 2007.
- The Magistrates occupy in excess of 70% of the floor space in the Guildhall and make a financial contribution in the region of £140,000 pa by way of rent and service charge.
- Wiltshire County Council are currently responsible for the provision of accommodation for the Magistrates, however this responsibility will transfer to the Department for Constitutional Affairs on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005.
- The Grade II\* status of the building and thereby the inevitable requirement to retain features of historic and architectural importance.
- The necessity to satisfy the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. If the building is to be made accessible to all then the internal levels and circulation within the building will have to be addressed.
- The building currently has a complicated internal layout with numerous circulation routes and this existing layout is further complicated by the arrangement of the building on a variety of levels.
- On the 22<sup>nd</sup> September a Public Meeting was held at the Guildhall to receive ideas and suggestions for both the short term and long-term uses of the Guildhall, the Guildhall Square and the Market Place. Other ideas have continued to come forward since the meeting.
- There was a good deal of commonality in the proposals which were being put forward and they included:-

<p><b><u>Public Amenities</u></b> Meeting Rooms, Education and Leisure Uses, Museum/Art Gallery/Exhibitions/Theatre, Salisbury Festival, Police Office, Charitable Organisations, Multi-purpose venue</p>	<p><b><u>Civic and Democratic Facilities</u></b> Mayors Office/Charter Trustees/Civic Functions, Display the Charters/Silver, Heritage Centre, Council Chamber, CAB Offices, Relocation of the War Memorial to a more dignified setting</p>
<p><b><u>Tourism Promotion</u></b> Focal point for visitors to Salisbury, Expand/relocate TIC, Showcase for local produce/trades/attractions, Left luggage, Guided tours/Mock trials, Tea Rooms /Bistro/Catering, "Discover Salisbury" relocated from the Medieval Hall, Coach drop off point in the Guildhall Square</p>	<p><b><u>Conferences and Weddings</u></b> Medium size conference, Civil weddings, Receptions in the Banqueting Hall</p>

**3. Next Steps and Timetable:**

- Formalise the Magistrates occupation of the Guildhall when this responsibility transfers to the Department of Constitutional Affairs in April 2005.
- Investigate those proposed uses which can be implemented whilst the Magistrates remain in occupation, assess the financial viability of such proposals and report again by June 2005.
- The Guildhall and its environs are referred to in the report also on this Agenda – Creating a vision for the future of Salisbury – it is suggested that any long term proposals for the use of the Guildhall be considered as part of the recommendations in that report.

**4. Recommendations:**

It is recommended that option appraisals be undertaken in respect of the short term uses and any long term proposals be considered as part of the vision for the future of Salisbury.

**5. Background Papers:**

Cabinet report on creating a vision for the future of Salisbury

**6. Implications:**

- **Financial** : None at this stage
- **Legal** : None at this stage
- **Human Rights** : None at this stage
- **Personnel** : None at this stage
- **Community Safety** : None at this stage
- **Environmental** : None at this stage
- **Wards Affected** : City Wards
- **Consultation Undertaken:** Informal discussions, Public Meeting, City Centre Management