



Planning & Economic Development Scrutiny Panel

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REPORT

REASON FOR REPORT TO MEMBERS

As members will be aware there is a Planning and Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Panel working group currently reviewing the possibility of having a conference centre and luxury hotel in the District. This group would like to formally request the release of £3000 from the scrutiny panel's 2004/5 budget to support this review.

THE PROPOSAL

The review group comprises of Cllrs A Peach and Mrs Chettleburgh. After two initial meetings they decided that they wish to undertake some analysis of the market potential for luxury hotel facilities, the conference market and any other gaps in the accommodation provision in Salisbury.

The members were made aware by the Economic Development Manager that much of the data needed had already been collected but was held by a number of different agencies and was not collated in a useful way for this review group. Therefore members considered that they wished to employ a consultant to do a "desk-top" review of the potential for extra accommodation in the Salisbury area with a specific focus on the potential for a hotel with conference facilities. The two key aims to this piece of work are:

- To inform and provide evidence for the Local Development Framework planning process.
- To provide evidence for strategic development of the local tourism product.

Therefore the review group would like to request that the Planning and Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Panel release £3,000 to support this review.

The Planning and Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Panel have an annual budget of £3,000. The panel were allocated £3,000 for 2004/5 in April 2004 and currently none of this budget has been spent. The £3000 granted in April 2004 is due to expire on 31st March 2005 when a new budget will be allocated for the next financial year.

It is therefore suggested that allocating this money to this review would not impact on the ability to undertake any other reviews either in this year or next.

IMPLICATIONS (SUMMARY):

Financial: All costs associated with this initiative can be contained within existing budgets.

Legal: None.

Environmental implications: None.

Council's Core Values: Promoting a thriving economy.

Wards Affected: Not identified at present.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Scrutiny Panel release £3000 from the remaining 2004/5 budget to employ a consultant to support this scrutiny review.