

**Question (from Cllr Paul Sample) re. City Hall for Salisbury Area Board on 19 September 2024**

On Wednesday 24th July Wiltshire Council voted to adopt Cllr Richard Clewer's Wiltshire Cultural Strategy 2024-2030. How does Wiltshire Council intend to ensure that the social and community benefits contained in the strategy are applied to the selection criteria for the new leaseholder for Salisbury City Hall?

**Response**

We have been working with Savills to market City Hall to prospective tenants. The key objective is to secure a sustainable commercial deal that is viable for both Wiltshire Council and any future tenant, and which ensures City Hall remains an arts and entertainment venue.

It has been confirmed by Savills that there has been interest from multiple parties in taking a long-term lease to operate the building. To ensure complete due diligence, an article was published in an arts publication which provided one more opportunity to promote the long-lease proposal to the whole of the market. At the end of September Savills will ask interested parties to confirm views on the lease and scheduling. Savills will then make recommendations to the council based on the outcomes.

Given the commercial nature of the discussions, until such time as any formal contract is agreed, those discussions will remain confidential.

As part of the process, we have invited any potential interested tenants to submit social value plans. When appropriate we will have separate discussions relating to the added social value that can be delivered through City Hall and how the venue can contribute to the aims and objectives set out in our new Cultural Strategy for Wiltshire.

The Area Board will be updated and made aware of any major milestones, including if a deal is reached with a provider.