



**CABINET**

**18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018**

**AGENDA ITEM (11)**

**STAIRCASE AT OLD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, CIRENCESTER**

<b>Accountable Members</b>	Councillor NJW Parsons Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Forward Planning
<b>Accountable Officers</b>	Christine Cushway Property & Estates Manager 01285 623241 <a href="mailto:christine.cushway@cotswold.gov.uk">christine.cushway@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To obtain approval for the removal and transfer of the oak staircase in the Old Memorial Hospital.
<b>Recommendation(s)</b>	<p>(a) That Officers progress with the removal and transfer of the oak staircase in the Old Memorial Hospital to Limerick, Ireland;</p> <p>(b) that the staircase be gifted to Limerick Civic Trust, and delegated authority be given to the Group Manager, Land Legal and Property Services, in consultation with the Deputy Leader, to agree the final terms of any legal documentation;</p> <p>(c) that approval be given to funding from the Council's Priorities Fund of up to £12,000 for the removal and transfer of the staircase to Limerick Civic Trust;</p> <p>(d) that suitable plaque/s be included within any redevelopment of the site which commemorates the Old Hospital building, the memorial of Meriel Leicester Bathurst and the Bannatyne Memorial, in consultation with Lord Bathurst, the War Memorial Trust and relevant local groups.</p>
<b>Reason(s) for Recommendation(s)</b>	To obtain the necessary authority to progress the removal and transfer of the staircase in support of the previous decision to progress applications for demolition of the Old Memorial Hospital.
<b>Ward(s) Affected</b>	Watermoor
<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Recommendation to Council</b>	No
<b>Financial Implications</b>	A sum of up to £12,000, to be met from the Council's Priorities Fund, is required for the removal and transfer of the staircase.

<b>Legal and Human Rights Implications</b>	None
<b>Environmental and Sustainability Implications</b>	No specifically in relation to this report.
<b>Human Resource Implications</b>	None
<b>Key Risks</b>	Loss of relocation opportunity
<b>Equalities Analysis</b>	None

<b>Related Decisions</b>	Cabinet - 21st April 2016 (Minute CAB.99 refers)
<b>Background Documents</b>	None
<b>Appendices</b>	<b>Appendix 'A'</b> - Letter from Limerick Civic Trust. N.B. Full proposal is available to view in the Members' Room.

<b>Performance Management Follow Up</b>	(i) Implement Cabinet decision(s) (ii) Progress will be monitored and reported to the Car Park Demand Project Board and to Cabinet as necessary.
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<b>Options for Joint Working</b>	Not applicable
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<p><b>Background Information</b></p> <p>1. <u>Background</u></p> <p>1.1 At the Cabinet Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016, it was agreed that Officers would progress with an application for the demolition of the Old Memorial Hospital building to provide additional public car parking spaces and as Phase One of the future use of this site.</p> <p>1.2 As part of the report, it identified that the existing staircase and lift within the main building was provided for by a donation from the family of Major EJ Bannatyne, a Rendcomb Flyer, following his death. It also noted that Officers had previously been in discussion with representatives and had agreed the removal and transportation of the staircase to a museum in Ireland and that this would be reviewed.</p> <p>1.3 Officers have progressed with formal pre-application advice on the demolition of the Old Memorial Building and the issue of the re-use of the staircase formed a part.</p> <p>1.4 The War Memorial Trust were also consulted, and they confirm that they treat the staircase and lift as war memorials and that should 'the future of the Bannatyne Memorials not be resolved the War Memorial Trust would object to the proposals (demolition).</p> <p>2. <u>Proposal</u></p> <p>2.1 It is therefore important that the future of the Bannatyne Memorial is considered and dealt with appropriately.</p>
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2.2 Officers have received a proposal from Limerick Civic Trust for the future use/retention of the Memorial staircase - see letter attached at **Appendix 'A'**. The full proposal document is available for view in the Members' Room. Limerick Civic Trust is a registered charity.

2.3 Limerick, and the Church/Churchyard where it is proposed that the staircase will be incorporated, has significant history with the Bannatyne family.

2.4 This proposal is unique in that it provides a long-term future for the staircase and for it to be located in an historical location in relation to Bannatyne family. It is unlikely that the Council would obtain another more fitting proposal to retain the Memorial for future generations.

2.5 The only current alternative the Council has is to place the staircase in storage indefinitely until an alternative use can be found. This would mean that the staircase was no longer in use and available to view and that the opportunity to relocate it to an area historic to the family could be lost. The on-going cost to the Council of storage is likely to be in the region of £4,000 per annum. This will still require the staircase to be removed and transported to storage. A one-off cost of approx. £7,000 would be required to cover these costs, together with the storage costs. The cost therefore of the first year alone is likely to be £11,000, with on-going storage costs if suitable alternation location is not identified within the first year. There could also be future costs associated with any relocation to a permanent location.

2.6 The Car Parking Project Board is supportive of this proposal.

2.7 Officers have consulted the Earl Bathurst, the War Memorial Trust and the Ward Member, and all are supportive of the proposal. The RAF Historical Branch have also been consulted, but no response has been received to date.

### 3. Funding

3.1 As current owner, it is the Council's responsibility to ensure that the Bannatyne Memorial is dealt with in an appropriate manner.

3.2 It has been difficult to obtain quotations for the removal of the staircase, as this is a specialist task to ensure that it can be reassembled; also, until it has been dismantled it is hard to know the size of the package which will need to be transferred and therefore companies have been unwilling to quote.

3.3 However, some guidance has been obtained and it is proposed that a sum of up to £12,000 for the removal and transfer of the staircase to Limerick Civic Trust is approved. This can be funded from the Council's Priorities Fund.

(END)