

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 20 MAY 2021

**Question to Victoria Wilson
Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture**

By Cllr Hussain

Question

Has the County Council allocated £1m for Burton Library's relocation to Market Hall, if so, can I be assisted with the breakdown of the spending of the one million pounds? How is that £1m arrived and to whom? Has the council received any developer's interest in the site?

Reply

The initial submission to Government of The Burton Town Investment Plan has been successful in securing £22.8m across a collection of seven complementary projects, subject to individual Full Business Cases being approved. The seven projects will contribute significantly towards the regeneration of the town. These include the concept of relocating the existing Library to the Market Hall and around £7m of potential funding has been allocated. The redevelopment of the existing library site is considered essential to the success of an associated project to regenerate the frontage to the River Trent's "Washlands".

The Cabinet considered the principle of the relocation in a confidential report on 19th August 2020 (item 11) and as part of the decision-making process agreed the recommendations in respect of the proposed move to the Market Hall subject to the relevant consultation and design processes.

I can confirm that up to £1m has been earmarked for this project should it proceed.

The project is still at an early stage of design and as such the actual cost breakdown of the works is not available, hence the wide range of £0.5m - £1.0m used in the August 2020 Cabinet paper.

The decision to proceed will rest with both the Burton Stronger Town Board, in terms of making the requested £7m available to fund the structural alterations to the building and Property Sub Committee in order to confirm the Council's acceptance of the terms following submission of a Full Business Case and the Council's contribution. Neither the Town Deal Board nor the Council's Property Sub Committee will make any decisions until after they have considered the results of an extensive public consultation exercise that will take place during summer 2021.

There are no current plans to move the library if the Market Hall proposal is not progressed.

The principle of a land exchange between the two councils has been discussed which would see the county council becoming the freeholder of the Market Hall if the project proceeds. In return, East Staffordshire Borough Council would become the freeholder of the existing library site. The existing library site has not been marketed by the County Council and neither has it had any discussions with any developer about the site.