

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 20 November 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Children & Enterprise

PORTFOLIO: Economic Development

SUBJECT: Norton Priory Museum –
Monastery to Museum project

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to notify members that a tendering exercise will be entered into via “The Chest” in respect of the Monastery to Museum 900 project.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Members note that a tendering exercise will be entered into via “The Chest” in order to appoint a main contractor for the Monastery to Museum 900 project which is a joint venture to rebuild Norton Priory Museum between Norton Priory Museum Trust and Halton Borough Council.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Heritage lottery approved funding for £3.67m in August 2014 for the project, this being 82% of the estimated cost which amounts to £4.478m in total. The remaining match funding is being raised by Norton Priory Trust, and in respect of this the Council has previously agreed to provide financial support to the Trust by way of agreeing to provide a loan of up to £300,000 to be paid back over 3 years if the Trust are unable to raise all of the match funding required. (Exec Board Minute EXB 167 13th March 2014)

3.2 The draft programme for the project has an anticipated start on site in March 2015 with completion in June 2016. The design team are currently developing the design and will soon commence with the preparation of the tender documents ready for issuing for tender in late November.

3.3 It is intended to firstly seek expressions of interest from suitably qualified contractors, these expressions will then be assessed following which an invitation to tender will be issued to 6 or 7 contractors.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no policy issues

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 In addition to the loan of up to £300,000, it has been agreed in principle that the Council will also fund the installation of a biomass boiler at an estimated cost of £100,000. This will generate an annual revenue income for the Council due to the government's renewable heat incentive scheme (RHI), which over the 20 year lifetime of the scheme will generate an estimated income of £383,000. (Exec Board Minute EXB 68 2ND Oct 2014)

5.2 The estimated cost of the actual building work element of the project, excluding the fit out which will be subject to a separate procurement exercise is circa £2.72m.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

None

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

It is anticipated that some form of work related opportunity for unemployed locals will be included in the building contract thus helping to enhance local skills.

The newly refurbished museum will also provide a greatly enhanced experience for visitors and it is predicted that visitor numbers will increase from circa 34,000 per annum to 55,000 per annum.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

None

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 There are no significant risks with proceeding with the procurement process as the Heritage Lottery funding has been secured.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None.

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the Act.