

Workington Town Council

Full Council

11 September 2014 Appendix B

Workington Town Hall

Background

The Town Council has been considering its options for developing accommodation suitable for its needs since the Town Hall building was vacated by Allerdale staff in 2012. The Borough Council is now re-tenanting the Town Hall building, and this has prompted a number of discussions with Borough Council officers and councillors over the Town Council's specific accommodation needs. The Town Council has conducted a thorough review of properties within the town centre, and the clerk has reported these to a variety of committees and working groups. The Policy and Resources Committee reviewed the situation at its meeting on 3 September and has made the following recommendation.

Short term

With the extension into the former Bereavement Services offices, the Town Council currently has sufficient desk and storage space for the staff it employs. A number of issues have arisen in relation to the use of this space, but these will no doubt be ironed out in the coming months.

Long term

In the long term, the committee recommends that the Town Council enters into negotiations with the Borough Council as landowner for the partial redevelopment of the current site, using some of the capital at the council's disposal to create a facility that is more fitted to the council's current needs. The scale and extent of any redevelopment should be the subject of talks between the two authorities in due course.

Medium term

Whilst making plans for this partial redevelopment, the Town Council should recognise and welcome the sharing of the existing site and building configuration with other tenants, and should work with those tenants and the landlord to ensure that the building is managed effectively in the interests of the Workington and wider community.

Recommendation

That the council adopts this approach to redeveloping its accommodation

That the council empowers the clerk to enter into initial consultations and tendering processes for architectural and other services, bringing back costings to the council's Finance, Property and Employment Committee for approval as appropriate.

Full plans, budgets and a timetable for any development would be subject to approval by full council in due course.