

Executive

1 June 2021

Public Questions

Questions from Andrew Malcolm Chair - Friends of the Alexandra Theatre

Question 1

Will the Executive, and in turn Full Council, be prepared to commit to accepting, perusing, and exploring the Business Plan drawn up by FoTAT alongside their own plans, and those of others, to arrive at a final democratic decision based purely on merit of the plans alone?'

Response from Executive Member for Economy and Jobs

The democratic decision made at Full Council on 22 April 2021 was to progress the vision to create a single building with a variety of cohesive uses that can be used by all. The plans will be based on the FHSF bid submitted and as advertised for the Market Hall and Corn Exchange (Alexandra Cinema) to being used as one building which will become the focal point for the Markets Quarter. The Council cannot look at one part in isolation, because it forms a comprehensive package of interlinking transformational works (including the new build cinema, Queen Street and the National Cycle Route). Ultimately the final decision will be based on viability and the FHSF business plan which includes the strategic, economic, commercial, financial and management case, in line with MHCLG appraisal and evaluation guidance.

Question 2

Are the Executive planning to undertake further public, meaningful, consultations on any proposed changes to the Alexandra Theatre to further understand the thoughts and feelings of local business, groups, and population of the planned changes, and if so when will this take place and to what level of depth?'

Response from Executive Member for Economy and Jobs

Detailed planning on the different elements of the regeneration plan is now underway. In the coming months we will engage with key stakeholders, traders, local organisations and community groups so that the work is informed by those most affected by the improvements. Our goal is to meet the needs and interests of the widest range of local people and communities. When the detailed plans are complete, local people will have a final opportunity to influence them before works commence as part of the planning approval stage.