

Subject:	ROMAN PAINTED HOUSE – ESSENTIAL WORKS AND INSPECTIONS
Decision to be taken by:	Mike Davis, Strategic Director (Finance and Housing)
Report of:	Frank Thompson, Head of Property Assets
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Charlotte Zosseder, Portfolio Holder for Community and Corporate Property
Decision Type:	Non-Key Decision
Classification:	Unrestricted
Delegated Authority:	Delegation 64 of the Scheme of Officer Delegations (Section 6 of Section 3 (Responsibility for Executive Functions) of the Constitution) to the Section 151 Officer (also Strategic Director (Finance and Housing)) as follows: ‘To authorise new projects up to £50,000 that can be funded within the overall resources of the approved Medium-Term Financial Plan.’
Purpose of the report:	To undertake essential repairs to and inspections of the Roman Painted House in Dover.
Recommendation:	To approve essential repairs to and inspections of the Roman Painted House in Dover.

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Roman Painted House is located in New Street, Dover and was discovered during archaeological excavations in the 1970s. The Roman painted walls are of significant historic interest and have been preserved as a tourist attraction which has received several awards.
- 1.2 It has become necessary to carry out an inspection/condition survey of the exhibition building and of the Roman painted walls. Also, essential repairs and strengthening works are required to the access bridge into the exhibition building (owned and maintained by DDC) and provision of a new gate at the entrance to Roman Painted House car park to prevent unauthorised access.

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 The Roman painted house is located in New Street, Dover and was discovered during archaeological excavations in the 1970s. The Roman painted walls are of significant historic interest and have been preserved as a tourist attraction which has received several awards.
- 2.2 The Roman painted walls are protected from the elements by a purpose-built exhibition structure which is leased to the Roman Painted House Trust under the provisions of a property lease agreement.
- 2.3 It has become necessary to carry out an inspection/condition survey of the exhibition building fabric and structure and for an assessment of the condition of the Roman plastered painted walls (£8k). It is planned to use a specialist surveying company for

the building condition survey and for Arte Conservation Ltd, a specialist consultant, to examine and report on the Roman painted walls (£3k).

- 2.4 Also, essential repairs and strengthening works are required to the access bridge into the exhibition building (owned and maintained by DDC) (£15k) and a gate is needed at the entrance to the car park of the Roman Painted House to prevent unauthorised access (£5k).
- 2.5 Following completion of the inspections and surveys other essential work may become apparent which will need to be addressed.

3. Identification of Options

- 3.1 Option 1: Do nothing
- 3.2 Option 2: (Recommended) To carry out the surveys/inspections and work identified in this report and other work identified as a consequence of the inspections (subject to cost and budget).

4. Evaluation of Options

- 4.1 Option 2 is the recommended option as the Council needs to be sure that the environment and conditions within the exhibition building are such that the Roman painted walls and artifacts are preserved properly. The Roman painted walls need to be examined to ensure that they have not unduly deteriorated. The maintenance of the bridge and any consequential defects found in the condition surveys are essential in order to keep the facility operational.

5. Resource Implications

- 5.1 £50,000 is set aside in the Special Revenue Project 2023/24 of the Medium-Term Financial Plan to fund repairs to the bridge which should be sufficient to cover the cost of the bridge repairs, new gate and inspections and may also contribute towards other works identified.

6. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

- 6.1 None.

7. Corporate Implications

- 7.1 Comment from the Director of Finance (linked to the MTFP): "The S151 Officer has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no further comments (MD)."
- 7.2 Comment from the Solicitor to the Council: The Solicitor to the Council has been consulted during the preparation of this report and has no further comment to make.
- 7.3 Comment from the Equalities Officer: This report regarding essential repairs and inspections on the Roman Painted House, New Street, Dover does not specifically highlight any equality implications, however in discharging their duties members are required to comply with the public sector equality duty as set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/section/149>'

8. **Appendices**

None.

9. **Background Papers**

None.

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