

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

21 MARCH 2011

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
OF REGENERATION & CULTURAL SERVICES**

Report prepared by Simon Lace

1. MAIDSTONE MUSEUM EAST WING REDEVELOPMENT

1.1 Issue for Consideration

To note the current position regarding the redevelopment of the East Wing of Maidstone Museum.

1.2 Recommendation of the Assistant Director of Regeneration & Cultural Services

1.2.1 That the current position relating to the East Wing redevelopment is noted.

1.3 Reasons for Recommendation

1.3.1 The Museum's East Wing redevelopment is on target to deliver all of the stated outcomes. It provides excellent value for money and demonstrates the economic regeneration potential of the built heritage.

1.3.2 The redevelopment offers vastly increased access to the region's biggest and most important museum collections which will increase visitor traffic and income. The range of new facilities on offer in the new wing demonstrates both that the project still represents value for money and that the visitor experience will be hugely improved.

1.3.3 The sustainability of the museum will also be improved by a better retail and catering offer, the provision of spaces that can be hired by external users and by the use of green technologies.

1.3.4 Although the contractor has issued a thirteen week Extension of Time notice, the East Wing is on target to be opened to the public in the summer/autumn of 2011. The contractor's anticipated target

completion date remains at 8th July 2011. A phased opening will allow the ground floor to be open by the end of July.

1.3.5 The programme delay will have an impact on costs though the Council will be seeking to recover all of the additional money once the full cost implications are clear. The Council has appointed solicitors to advise on this matter

1.3.6 To date £2,575,300 has been secured either in cash donations or in pledges of financial support. This includes £400,000 from the Council's capital programme. A list of the major donations is given in the table below.

	Pledged	Received
Heritage Lottery Fund	£1,999,000	
Kent County Council	£50,000	£50,000
Kent Police		£500
Astor of Hever Trust		£500
Betteshanger Trust		£500
D'Oly Carte Trust		£4,200
Godington Trust		£2,500
Rothermere Foundation		£1,000
Thriplow Trust		£5,000
HR Pratt Boorman Foundation		£5,000
Cobtree Trust		£10,000
EDF	£30,000	
Rochester Bridge Trust	£7,000	
SGR Charitable Trust		£1,000
Kent Executive Club		£1,000
Coutts Trust		£700
Others		£7,400
Sub-total	£2,086,000	£89,300
		£2,175,300

1.3.7 An application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for an increase of £500,000 to their original grant of £2 million was submitted in January and will be considered by HLF's South East Regional Board on 15th March.

1.3.8 The first event of the public funding campaign (abseiling at Fremlin Walk) will take place on 26th March.

1.4 Impact on Corporate Objectives

1.4.1 The work to redevelop the Museum's East Wing supports the corporate objective that Maidstone is a decent place to live.

1.5 Risk Management

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
Failure to secure full match-funding from external sources	A	2	Ensure fundraising programme continues and is adequately resourced.
Programme delays increase cost	C	2	Ensure proper scrutiny of programme and ensure deadlines are realistic.

Likelihood: A=very high; B=high; C=significant; D=Low; E=very low.
 Impact: 1 = catastrophic; 2 = critical; 3 = marginal; 4 = negligible.

1.6 Other Implications

1. Financial	x
2. Staffing	
3. Legal	x
4. Equality Impact Needs Assessment	
5. Environmental/Sustainable Development	
6. Community Safety	
7. Human Rights Act	
8. Procurement	
9. Asset Management	

1.6.1 Financial

Failure to achieve the match-funding target has implications for the Council in terms of funding the remaining cost of the project and for funding of the rest of the current capital programme.

1.6.2 Legal

The legal implications are covered in the report.

1.7 Relevant Documents

None.