

**REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**RUBICON SHAREHOLDERS COMMITTEE**

**14<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**FORGE MILL MUSEUM**

<b>Relevant Portfolio Holder</b>	Councillor Mike Rouse
<b>Portfolio Holder Consulted</b>	-
<b>Relevant Head of Service</b>	Claire Felton - Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services
<b>Ward(s) Affected</b>	N/A
<b>Ward Councillor(s) Consulted</b>	N/A

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

To request that Forge Mill Museum remains closed due to the financial and operational impact of delivering social distancing measures.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that**

- 1) due to the operational and financial constraints of re-opening the Museum in February 2021, the Shareholder Committee agree as a variation to the Service Specification, that from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 and up until the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021 the Museum remains closed and re-opens on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021 subject to Government Advice on the re-opening of Museums; and**
- 2) the legal changes to the operating contract are delegated to the Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services and the Executive Director of Finance and Resources to implement.**

**3. KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 The Shareholders Committee resolved on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020 that due to the difficulties in reopening of the Forge Mill Museum, because of the operational and financial impact of achieving social distancing measures due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the museum would remain closed until the end of the normal winter closure on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021.
- 3.2 As members will be aware the Government announced a further National Lockdown from 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 for at least seven weeks. The Government also announced before Christmas that they were extending the Job Retention Scheme (Furlough) until 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021. As we are currently unsure when social distancing restrictions would be lifted sufficiently to allow the Museum to reopen safely Officers recommend the site remains closed until the end of April 2021 opening for the May Bank holiday weekend (1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> May).

**4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 As reported in August 2020 the financial implications of remaining closed would result in a saving of approximately £5,000 a month compared to the facility opening due to the furlough grant Rubicon can claim. Therefore, this would demonstrate better value for money for the company and the Council and save a further £15,000 over the three months February to April 2021.

**5 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 Keeping the Forge Mill Museum closed is a shareholder decision as this sits outside of the current Business Plan and a change to the Leisure Operating Contract. It is proposed that, should members agree, the contractual changes are delegated to the Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services and the Executive Director of Finance and Resources.

**6. Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 6.1 Officers will extend the communications plan to customers and volunteers for the rationale of the continued closure of the museum, engagement via social media and then details for reopening later in 2021.

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 Rubicon maintains risk registers in relation to both service delivery and Health and Safety compliance. This is reported to the Board of Directors at each meeting.

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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