

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

27 JANUARY 2022

PUBLIC QUESTION

Martina Chamberlain and Sally Stote, *For and on behalf of Save Our Shirehall*

In a recent BBC Radio Shropshire interview, the Leader of Shropshire Council said that "a realistic figure for putting right a building that is far too big for us and no longer required, is somewhere around £35 to £40 million". Could the PMSC please inform us and the public or look into, where is the feasibility study, where are the new refurbishment plans and where are the costings for this new figure being used by the Leader?

Response

No further detailed work was undertaken in terms of feasibility for the refurbishment of the Shirehall after the key decisions taken at the Council meeting of 16 July 2020. In the report it advised that in the Stage 2 financial business case was prepared by Rider Levett Bucknell (RLB) which identified an estimated cost of £24.1m, this was on the basis of fully refurbishing the Shirehall, which was presented to full Council in December 2018.

The Leader would have been referring to the significant inflationary increases combined with the increase in material costs over the time elapsed since the last appraisal of cost. She would also be likely be taking into account the significant additional costs in bringing the building up to an appropriate standard to meet the Council's commitment in respect of its declared climate emergency, which was post the original estimates, combined with costs associated with enhancements to meet the requirements of the Building Safety Bill 2021, which again are subsequent to the original estimate.