

118 LANDGATE TOWER

A breakdown of the estimated £70,000 for the urgent repairs is awaited.

The maintenance of the Tower has become more pressing because the lead Rother officer is leaving RDC at the end of March. There is some concern that if Cabinet approval is not secured by then – and also that the officer has initiated the process of appointing a contractor – the matter may drop further down RDC's 'to do' list.

The officer's report to Cabinet represents an opportunity to secure both a larger funding commitment from RDC than has been indicated previously – and also the possibility of repairs being undertaken towards the end of this year.

There is a (currently informal) Landgate Tower Working Group to consider the condition and future of the Tower. It comprises representatives from RDC, RTC, Rye Museum, Rye Conservation Society and the Friends of the Landgate. Until the formal terms of reference are finalised, RTC is being temporarily represented by Cllrs Boyd and Fiddimore (with the Clerk attending as an observer). (Cllrs Stuart and Kirkham attend in other capacities.)

RDC has made known its intention to transfer ownership of the Tower but it is considered unlikely that an interested party would consider taking it on without urgent repairs having been undertaken.

I have asked both the Rye Fund and Conservation Society if they would consider contributing towards the £7,000 requested from RTC. Attempts are being made also to identify private donors.

There is no specific provision for repairs to the Tower within RTC's current and 2018-19 budgets.

Should RTC be minded to make a contribution to the proposed repairs, possible sources of internal funding include:

Savings

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| a) The money that would otherwise have been spent on seeking Counsel's Opinion in respect of the Discounted Accommodation Allocation policy | <i>c£2,500</i> |
| b) Considering entering into a 3-year insurance agreement | <i>c£1,300</i> |
| c) Correcting an error within the 2018-19 staffing budget: 2 additional hours per week have been provided for one of the Town Hall posts inadvertently (the post holder is aware of the provision) | <i>c£1,365</i> |

Budgets/Reserves

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| a) 2018-19 provision for contingencies | £8,257 |
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