

Report of the Portfolio Holders for Environment and Climate Change, Economic Development and Asset Management, and Resources and Personnel Policy.

Brinsley Headstocks - Update

1. Purpose of Report

To update Members on the results of the public consultation regarding the Brinsley Headstocks.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to CONSIDER the options provided in the Appendix and RESOLVE accordingly.

3. Detail

Brinsley Headstocks operated at Brinsley Colliery a former coal mine, between 1872 and 1934. The twin Headstocks and nearby disused mineral railway track, were all that remained of the once extensive coal mining works, acting as a visual link to the heritage of the site.

In January 2023, a condition report and safety inspection was undertaken on the Headstocks. It identified that the Headstocks were no longer considered capable of safely carrying the load from the winding wheels without intervention. In late November 2023, further deterioration of the wooden structure was identified and concerns were raised by suitably qualified employees, that the structure was at risk of imminent collapse. In the interest of public safety, the Headstocks were dismantled in December 2023.

A report was presented to Cabinet on 12 March 2024, requesting approval for a public consultation to be undertaken regarding potential replacement options for the Headstocks. The proposed questions were approved, and the consultation was undertaken from the 7 to the 31 May 2024. The consultation was conducted using an online platform and paper questionnaires. The latter was distributed across various locations in the Borough.

The options presented for replacement were as follows:

1. Direct replacement with an oak framed structure.
2. Direct replacement with a steel structure.
3. Ground level interactive art piece.
4. Other (detail to be provided).

Findings from the public consultation and feedback captured from the Friends of Brinsley Headstocks focus group are presented in the **Appendix**.

4. Key Decision

This report will be a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012. As one of the options for approval could result in the Council incurring capital or revenue expenditure of £250,000 or more.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

Not applicable.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

Members should note that there is currently no budgetary provision for the refurbishment of Brinsley Headstocks. The capital cost of the most popular replacement choice from the consultation is estimated at £220,000. Any capital investment would have to be funded from prudential borrowing unless alternative capital grant funding and/or other third party contributions could be sourced. It has been identified that up to £145,000 of capital contributions may become available. In addition to the cost of borrowing (principal and interest), there would be ongoing revenue budget implications in terms of maintenance and repairs. Further details are provided in the appendix.

7. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

There are no direct legal implications that arise from this report.

8. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

7. Union Comments

Not applicable.

8. Climate Change Implications

When considering the climate change implications of replacing the Headstocks, it is important to evaluate the environmental impact of various materials. Opting for a wooden replacement could offer potential ecological benefits due to the woods renewable nature and lower carbon footprint. Responsible sourcing of the wood would be crucial. It should be noted that whilst a wooden replacement would be an environmentally sustainable option, it would require an enhanced and extensive programme of maintenance

9. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

11. Background Papers

Nil.