Agenda item 6

For decision - Partnership with MDC on Boyle Cross
Author: Peter Wheelhouse, Economic Development & Regeneration Manager & Deputy Town Clerk

Summary

Further to the report that was considered at the October Council meeting, councillors are asked to support a partnership arrangement with Mendip District Council that will help to secure greater activity on the Boyle Cross area in the future and help to reduce the cost of maintaining the fountain and other assets.

Background

Following the completion of the Boyle Cross works, FTC and MDC have been working closely together through the Boyle Cross Project Group to ensure that arrangements are in place for the management of the area. Councillors will be aware that the FTC Ranger Team have been looking after the fountain following its installation and we have been in discussion with MDC around future maintenance requirements. We have also been exploring how we can get more activity going to take advantage of the new event facilities including pop-up power and water. The Boyle Cross Project Group comprises councillors and staff from the two authorities.
We understand that it may be possible for an annual licence to be granted (along the lines of the licence granted to The Frome Independent) to enable some new events that are held on a regular basis to go ahead on Boyle Cross. This opportunity will be investigated further.

Next steps

To cement the partnership with MDC requires a Joint Committee to be established and a legal agreement to be entered into. Signing the agreement will unlock a financial contribution from MDC towards the costs of maintenance and putting on new events, costs that would otherwise fall to FTC. It will also result in all income generated by the site to be pooled.

Recommendation

Delegate authority to the Deputy Town Clerk in consultation with Mark Dorrington and Sheila Gore to finalise the legal agreement and partnership arrangements with MDC and work with MDC staff to develop a business plan that will enhance activity on the site.