

HITCHIN COMMITTEE
1st December 2020

PART 1 Report Information Note

Charnwood House, Hitchin:

INFORMATION NOTE OF THE: Interim Property Consultant

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Keith Hoskins

PRIORITY: ATTRACTIVE AND THRIVING

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 With the completion of the new Hitchin Museum the future strategy for this property needs to be determined in order that it does not become a future liability for the District Council.

2 STEPS TO DATE

- 2.1 The Museum Service will continue to utilise the property for storage until the Bury Mead Road site is redeveloped with a new storage facility. Charnwood House could be vacated prior however this would require significant resources and temporary storage to be found in the interim.
- 2.2 A local community group has submitted a proposal to take over the property and make it available for a range of community and educational purposes. This proposal requires significant expenditure by the District Council whilst providing no income as a return.
- 2.3 A Report has been prepared for submission to Cabinet on 15th December which sets out the potential options that exist for the District Council.

3. INFORMATION TO NOTE

- 3.1 The continued use of the property by the Museum Service is unlikely to delay the implementation of alternative community uses. The current pandemic has halted most of the activities that potential users of the property would be promoting.

4. NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 Await outcome of Cabinet 15th December 2020 and implement approved recommendation.

5. APPENDICES

None

6. CONTACT OFFICERS

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7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None