



STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices • Ebley Mill • Ebley Wharf • Stroud • GL5 4UB

Telephone 01453 766321 • Facsimile 01453 750932

www.stroud.gov.uk

STRATEGY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MEMBER/OFFICER REPORT

NAME OF ORGANISATION/BODY	Brimscombe Port Project Board
DATE OF LAST MEETING ATTENDED	4 September 2020
BRIEF REPORT:	
1.1	The purpose of this Member/ Officer Report is to update members on the current position and programme for the redevelopment of Brimscombe Port.
1.2	The last update was dated 8 June 2020. This update is to inform members of the progress made in the last 4 months.
1.3	Planning – The planning application for the phase 1 infrastructure and the demolition of the existing buildings together with the listed building application for the demolition of the modern extensions to Port Mill and the Port House (submitted in July 2019) is still delayed due to hold ups with responses from third party consultees. The Environmental Statement has been finalised and has been out for consultation. A letter has been received from Natural England, a meeting held and agreement over what further information is required to satisfy their concerns regarding migratory fish. The Environment Agency (EA) has still to provide its response to us and has struggled to respond due to the COVID 19 crisis, which has seriously affected their response times on projects such as Brimscombe Port. A recent meeting has been held with the new highways manager and some minor changes are being made to deal with his concerns. As soon as all of the relevant information has been supplied then a report will be prepared for the next available Development Control committee. It is not anticipated that this will be before November 2020.
1.4	Transfer of Brimscombe Port and Funding Agreement with Homes England – The transfer of the Port from Stroud Valleys Canal Company (SVCC) to the Council took place on the 1 April 2020.
1.5	The changes to the milestones for the funding agreement with Homes England have been agreed and approved by the Homes England Project Executive on 9 September 2020.
1.6	Procurement - The key documents for the tender process for the selection of a developer for the redevelopment of the Port have now been agreed by Strategy and Resources.



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- 1.7 Strategy and Resources approved the process for the procurement of a contractor for the infrastructure for phase 1 on a design and build basis at its meeting on the 17 December 2019 and this will commence once planning permission has been secured.
- 1.8 Due to the delays with responses from third parties for the planning application, the date for a report to be presented to Strategy and Resources Committee to seek formal approval to the procurement process for the selection of a developer partner has moved to December at the earliest.
- 1.9 **Project Board** - Along with the standing items of risk register, budget and programme, at its meeting of the Project Board on the 4th September, the Corporate Communications Manager presented to members a draft Communication Strategy. This sets out the objectives, audiences and aspirations and will be finalised with key dates for publicity. It was agreed that the key message is to focus back on the original reason that the council became involved with the site, which was to restore the port and the canal. The delivery of new homes is important but a secondary message.
- 1.10 **Tenancy Management** - Current tenants at the Business Park and the Industrial Estate are kept informed of any changes in dates through the regular tenant liaison meetings and direct contact with the council as landlord. The aim is to enable them to stay as long as possible but also to enable notice to be served at the appropriate time to give the Council vacant possession to demolish the properties when required. The tenants have always been aware that their presence on site was a temporary arrangement. Several tenants have experienced trading difficulties through the pandemic and have been supported by the Council as appropriate.
- 1.11 The Council is being encouraged to submit a One Public Estate Land Release Fund (LRF) bid for the infrastructure works. This may enable the Council to consider carrying out the infrastructure works ahead of securing a developer partner if the market conditions delayed the commencement of the procurement process or to have additional funds to meet any shortfall on the viability when the site is marketed. The bids have to be submitted by the 12th November and approved by the One Gloucestershire Board.

FUTURE MEETINGS	Late October 2020 - TBA
REPORT SUBMITTED BY	Leonie Lockwood



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DATE	30 September 2020
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