

Meeting Date: 3rd January 2023

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Place Panel Chair's Report – Councillor James Bainbridge**

Meeting 1st December 2022

The final Place Panel meeting of 2022 commenced with a look back over the first year of the Investment Plan. Following the allocation of £4.1 million in defrayed (a very useful word to have if you are to partake in Scrabble over the festive period) funding over three years, the Council has been working on several schemes following expressions of interest. I would naturally encourage Members to read the Report which summarise the projects in greater detail. Suffice to say that the Panel accepted the Report, assured that the projects would not be lost in the wider LGR changes a few months away. Though it is worth the wider Council noting that once again, having made a significant discovery of important Roman archaeology, the 'powers that be' within archaeological quangos, whilst insisting on having publicly funded digs lasting over two plus years to encourage the public to get an interest in Roman history, then ensure with equal vigour that for the most part the discoveries are then entombed under soil once more at their behest.

The Second Quarter Performance Report outlined the performance to date of the Council. Questions naturally swayed towards the completion of the Sands. It was reassuring to note that in light of the announcement by GLL the previous week that it would be seeking to cut back opening hours in some of their operations and reduce swimming water temperatures in other pools, added to by the recent decision by Eden Council to agree (or cave in?) to a request by GLL for funding of £325,000, there has been to date no indication yet that this Council may be tapped up for funding. I am sure Members would agree with me that having provided an operator with one of the most energy efficient and modern-day facilities in the UK, the Council should resist any notion of changes to the funding or operation of the site, which do not have the interests of the wider community at heart.

Talkin Tarn Management Arrangements came before the Council with initial proposals to improve the facilities and operation of the Boat House area. Having grown under the stewardship of the Council since ownership was transferred, the Tarn seeks to move forward by utilising presently underused space at the Boat House, but would require

capital investment to do so. Members sought to support in principle the ideas in the Report, though some reservations were expressed by a Member that it not commercial enough, and that a tourism accommodation offer ought to be explored, though all views were expressed - with others agreeing with the Report. There does need to be a consideration given as to the surplus and carry forwards (all of these are spent on the Tarn, but changes may enable these to be utilised more effectively in support of longer-term capital investment in the site). Likewise, there was a desire expressed to see the NNDR levy of the Tarn explored to ascertain if additional savings can be made there.

The remaining items being Part B, I am limited as to what I can say on these in this Report.

Full details of the discussions are to be found within the Minute Book

Cllr James Bainbridge
Chairman