

AGENDA ITEM 8i**General Manager's Overview**
MONTHLY REPORT JANUARY/FEBRUARY 26**• Project Updates**

Guildhall Gateway Centre Complex:

- The Guildhall Gateway Centre reopened on 13th January and agreements have been signed re the licence renewal for the VIC.
- The centre is being used in this period for:
 - a) Policing Exhibition in the Robing Room from January 26th- March 28th
 - b) Simon Dell Talks, one a month on a Friday
 - c) Discovery Team activities including school visits from Mount Kelly, Mount Kelly Foreign exchange students, Horrabridge School and half term workshops
 - d) Regular meeting relating to Abbey Remains Project, Heritage Alliance, THT Volunteers and TTC generic (e.g. interviews)
 - e) Crime and Punishment Month- Talks every Friday throughout March from various individuals (Devon and Cornwall Police Forensics/Dartmoor Prison/Simon Dell and the Policing Museum).
 - f) Hosting the WHS Board Meeting in March
 - g) Arranging a Mining Exhibition to coincide with the 20th Anniversary of the WHS (August-October TBC).

Multi-Use Wheeled Sports Area:

- A progress meeting was held with TaviSkate, Council and Canvas Spaces on 13th February primarily relating to funding with TaviSkate advising the crowd funding will be launched in March/April 26.
- The Council has commissioned a geotechnical consultant to undertake contamination, soakaway and strength/loadbearing tests to the soil but the works have been delayed due to the adverse weather conditions, scheduled now for March 26.

Abbey Remains Project:

- Following on from the briefing note submitted to Budget and Policy on 10th February 2026 NLHF confirmed 'permission to start' on 5th February regarding a grant award to the value of £249,226. 50% of that amount should be received by the Council by end February.

- The Project Steering Group have appointed Mel Humphries as the Evaluation Consultant for the project after reviewing the fee proposal.
 - The appointment of the Conservation Architect, following a two stage tender process, tender submission/interviews, will be confirmed by 18th February. This appointment will be specific to the delivery of the repair works to Betsy Grimbals Tower and Stillhouse, targeted completion for the works mid-Nov 26. Within the capital phase are scheduled community skills days and a bespoke project working with Youth Café.
 - Meetings have been held by the Steering Group and the Project Delivery Team to agree workstreams and governance arrangements.
 - A focus group was held with key project team members to agree the process relating to the workstreams for the archaeological and geophysical aspects of the project. Site meetings are being arranged with Historic England and the County Archaeologist to discuss anticipated scope and programme for this year and next.
- ***Operational Update***
 - Investigatory works relating to water ingress in Tavistock Museum tower, including removing all internal lime pointing as exposed 7 in No. degraded timber lintels. After inspections by architects and structural engineers, it has been concluded that they need replacing in the short-term with temporary propping being installed. The works will require a significant, unplanned capital investment. In the meantime, attempting to identify water ingress is challenging but part of the planned remedials includes treating and re-pointing the external fabric of the tower. Other potential points of ingress are being identified and attempts to mitigate actioned. One window also needs replacing due to dry rot at a value of IRO £4,000. Installation of heating within the four rooms facing the front elevation is also of high priority for the museum to utilise as appropriate on a consistent basis post installation. The Council are also addressing water ingress challenges within Town Hall, Guildhall and a Pannier Market perimeter shop.
 - Following a recent service report on the boilers in the Town Hall it is suggested that Council should consider prioritising their replacement in 2026 to ensure that the business continuity for the Town Hall is maintained throughout the winter period. A report will be brought before Council in due course.

- It is anticipated that all EPC inspections/certification where the Council is responsible for commissioning relating to owned Council assets will be completed by March 26 with one property requiring actioning in Feb/March to improve the rating. A further cycle of pothole inspections from a compliance perspective has been completed. The review of departmental RAs is ongoing in the first quarter of 2026 and training has been arranged for asbestos and COSHH.
- Clearance/reinstatement works, previously identified at the MOC has been put on-hold due to emergent works in Duke Street, Pannier Market perimeter and Tavistock Museum.
- It is expected that the potential transfer of the Guildhall toilets will not be complete by the new financial year which was the aspiration of WDBC as TTC are still awaiting confirmation that WDBC have committed match funding toward make good works to the value of £40,000.

Yours Sincerely



Wayne R. C. Southall MBA (Open) BEng (Hons) Dip NEBOSH
General Manager