

CITY OF PLYMOUTH

Subject: MOUNT BATTEN TOWER
Committee: Plymstock Area Committee
Date: 15th March 2010
Cabinet Member: Finance, People Property & Governance - Councillor Bowyer
CMT Member: Director for Corporate Support
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Ref:
Part: 1

Executive Summary:

The report updates Committee on the current condition of Mount Batten Tower and the works being undertaken to ensure its immediate preservation.

Corporate Plan 2009-2012:

Providing better value for money in managing its assets

Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land

Proposed works will be contained within existing maintenance budgets

Other Implications: e.g. Section 17 Community Safety, Health and Safety, Risk Management, Equalities Impact Assessment, etc.

Proposed works will address current health & safety issues in respect of the tower

Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:

The area committee is recommended to note the proposed actions to safeguard the immediate position of the tower and the condition generally of the building.

Alternative options considered and reasons for recommended action:

Do nothing – the council would be failing in its statutory duty as owner of the listed building to preserve it's status

Background papers:

None

Sign off: comment must be sought from those whose area of responsibility may be affected by the decision, as follows (insert initials of Finance and Legal reps, and of Heads of HR, AM, IT and Strat. Proc.):

Head of Fin		Head of Leg	N/A	Head of HR	N/A	Head of AM		Head of IT	N/A	Head of Strat Proc	N/A
Originating SMT Member											

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Mount Batten Tower is a Grade II listed 17th Century fortress which was acquired by Plymouth City Council from the Plymouth Development Corporation in 1998. The building is closed except for annual open days organised by the museums service

2.0 Existing condition

2.1 As part of the councils rolling programme of condition surveys the building was surveyed in 2009. Due to concerns over elements of the structure a more detailed structural survey was also commissioned.

2.2 Both surveys revealed concerns over existing timber supports below the stairway area and cracks in the external walls. Repairs to the temporary supports have been carried out.

2.3 Structural tell-tales have been affixed to the external walls over the cracks to monitor the movement. These are checked on a monthly basis and the monitoring will be complete in May 2010. To date there is little movement taking place and at the end of the monitoring period a decision will be made as to the scope of repairs required. The repairs will include, at least, the replacement of the timber lintel that is currently subject to the temporary support.

2.4 Investigations are ongoing with regard to the fungal growth encountered in the surveys.