

PROPOSAL TO FULL COUNCIL

DATE 16 JANUARY 2023

FROM COUNCILLOR JO KING

SUBJECT TO ERECT A PERMANENT STAGE IN THE MARKET / GUILDHALL SQUARE

1.0 Background

- 1.1 On the 27 June 2022, Salisbury City Council passed a motion to enable me to investigate the possibility of a permanent stage in the city centre.
- 1.2 Part of that motion involved the creation of a Working Group to investigate the suggestion.
- 1.3 An open meeting was held on the 27 September where people gathered to talk about the possibility of taking this project forward. Among those present were representatives from four schools, people who presently put on events in the city centre, staff and councillors from Salisbury City Council and some representatives from churches. Since then the Working Group has met and I have been in touch with many other people with experience in the events industry

2.0 Possible way forward

- 2.1 It was considered a good idea to trial the use of a stage in the city centre from April until December; if this proves to be successful, we can then look at something permanent.
- 2.2 A professional local company has offered, free of charge, to provide a stage.
- 2.3 An experienced marketer has offered, free of charge, to put together a promotional package
- 2.4 Two local companies have offered to provide sound/lighting equipment at a very reasonable rate – both companies are keen to support the community
- 2.5 I am in touch with Wiltshire Creative as it is essential that this project links in with other venues across the city.

3.0 Finance

- 3.1 A local company has offered a stage, so this will be free of charge
- 3.2 Marketing the use of the stage can also be free of charge
- 3.3 Those hiring the stage will need to contact one of the two local companies for lighting and sound rigs and of course will need to pay for the hiring.
- 3.4 There will be cost in a member of staff completing the paperwork but this can be offset by charging those who want to hire the stage who live outside the SP1 or SP2 areas and the money spent on hiring stages each year. Those living within these areas could be offered the use of the stage at no cost.

4.0 Proposal

Salisbury City Council asks Councillor Jo King to i) liaise with officers to obtain temporary planning permission for a stage to be sited in the city centre from April – December 2023; ii) liaise with officers and the market traders about the siting of the stage; iii) ask the administration to include in one of the SCC event team's objectives for the year 2023/24 two days a month to complete paperwork and promote the use of the stage for local groups (no charge for those working/living in the SP1 and SP2 areas and charges made to those living further afield) – each group hiring the stage will need to provide adequate lighting and sound systems; iv) review security – CCTV and ensure there is sufficient electrical supply; v) review at Full Council early January 2024.