



**11. 5-7 Church:  
Refurbishment Project**

**Full Council: 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**Agenda Item:11**

**Update on Refurbishment of 5-7 Church Street**

The Council will recall that it was agreed to go out to tender on the project for the refurbishment of 5-7 Church Street in March 2020. The tender documents were uploaded to the Milton Keynes Council Portal and the closing date for bids was 21<sup>st</sup> August 2020.

As might have been anticipated, all the bids submitted were over the budget allocated for the project with the tenders ranging from £352,686.04 to £643,667.03. A meeting of the 5-7 Church Street Project Group agreed that a revised tender should be drawn up accompanied by a more robust cost plan for the work to be undertaken. These costs reflected some of the prices quoted by tenderers and reviewed alterations to the project.

The Project Group recognises the importance of maintaining the quality of any proposed work, acknowledging that the current building is over 40 years old but has lasted relatively well. Any replacement work should be able to sustain a similar length of usage.

The Project Group also welcomes the commitment of Milton Keynes Council to funding library improvements through the tariff funding from the Western Expansion Area. The Group will continue to discuss with MKC the amount and nature of the investment to ensure maximum return for both authorities.

The revised tender will be circulated to the tenders during this month with a completion date of submissions being week commencing 30<sup>th</sup> January 2021. It is intended that the successful contractor will start work on site in mid-January.

From a financial perspective, the Council has received permission to borrow from the Public Works Loan Board up to £200,000. The impact of this has been built into the budget for next year together with the overall impact on the precept. The Council will be able to confirm its willingness to borrow the money at the precept setting meeting in January. In addition, Appendix A (to follow) gives the costs of the project already incurred by the Council.

**The Council is asked to note this report and receive further updates at its next meeting.**