

**CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL
CABINET 17 DECEMBER 2013**

Background Papers, if any, are specified at the end of the Report

REPLACEMENT FURNITURE FOR CHAMBER AND COMMITTEE SUITE

Contact Officer: Simon Rycraft 01494 732073

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. That Cabinet approve the replacement of Chamber and Committee Room furniture.**
- 2. That £45,000 in the Provisional Projects list is added to the approved and committed capital programme to fund this expenditure.**
- 3. That CAMG be delegated to work with officers to view furniture samples and finishes and make recommendations regarding the choice of the replacement furniture with the final decision being delegated to the Director of Services in consultation with the Deputy Leader.**

Relationship to Council Objectives

Efficient & effective customer focused services

Implications

(i) This matter is not a Key Decision within the Forward Plan.

(ii) This matter is within the Policy and Budgetary Framework.

Financial Implications

£45,000 to be added to the approved and committed capital programme.

Risk Implications

None

Equalities Implications




Disability requirements will be considered in furniture choice

Sustainability Implications

Furniture supplier to conform to appropriate environmental accreditations

Report

- 1 Members have requested that the possibility of replacing furniture in the Chamber and Large and Small Committee Rooms be investigated. In total that will involve replacing 80 large chairs, 50 smaller chairs for the public and tables sufficient to ensure current layouts can be achieved.
- 2 The chairs and tables that we have currently are now 27 years old and are showing signs of wear and as such are not particularly comfortable. In view of the age the furniture it is regularly in need of maintenance with foam seat pads collapsing and frames loose. In the past we have had chairs refurbished but this was expensive costing about £100 a chair. In the last 2 years we have spent approximately £2500 on refurbishment and there are a number of chairs in need of major repair.
- 3 One of the issues and probably one of the main reasons for discomfort when sat at meetings is that the original tables had wheels fitted as an addition to aid moving them. This means that they are now about 50mm higher than a normal table. The tables themselves, whilst solid are still heavy to move, difficult to store and being veneered, subject to regular damage which again is dealt with through normal maintenance and specialist refurbishment when necessary. Because of their weight the tables have been the subject of discussions with our Health & Safety advisor who has concerns regarding staff wellbeing.
- 4 We have asked the Council's furniture supplier to provide an indication of what is available and to quote prices. As you will appreciate there is a vast range in both style and price; we have therefor asked for prices of a chair of similar quality to existing, but if possible with the ability to stack and ease of movement when not in use. Prices quoted are for a mid-range fabric
- 5 The images below give an indication of what is available and the sort of price we could expect to pay. Whilst cheaper furniture of poorer quality is available we have to consider both the amount of use this furniture will receive and the length of time we would expect it to last.

			
M4FB Fabric £114.00 Stacking	MCFB Fabric £135.00 Stacking		Talk Fabric £129.00 Stacking For public area.
	Cost of 80 Chairs		Cost of 50 Chairs for public
	M4FB	MCFB	Talk
Fabric	£9,120.00	£10,800.00	£6,450.00

6 With regard to tables there are a limited number of manufacturers that produce the type of furniture required for the Council Chamber. One of the issues has been to be able to find a table that has the flexibility to enable us to achieve the layouts required by Members and that are easy to manoeuvre and store.

7 Indicative prices have been obtained for a like for like replacement of existing table shapes but based on an oak finished melamine faced chipboard.

Chamber	£14,517.00
Large Committee Room	£4,895.00
Small Committee Room	£2,431.00
Total	£21,843.00

Below are some images of a possible table and layouts.



- 8 This report has been presented to CAMG who recommended that all tables and chairs should be replaced and that £45,000 in the Provisional Projects list be moved to the Approved Capital Programme.
- 9 The supplier is able to provide samples of furniture and finishes and to enable this project proceed it is recommended that Members should have input into the final choice. To achieve this it is further recommended that the CAMG be delegated with this task.

Background Papers: None
