

Title	The use of the Rendezvous in Andover		
Report of	Head of Estates and Economic Development		
Author	Simon Ellis	Ext	8301
Report to	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Date	26 April 2017

Briefing Summary

This briefing note:

- explains the background to the provision of the Rendezvous in Andover
- sets out the current position regarding use of the venue,
- provides details of an opportunity for future use of the venue, including commercially sensitive information contained in a confidential annex to this briefing note.

Main focus of the document

Background

At the Council meeting of 21 June 2007, it was resolved that proposals to lease the Lower Guildhall in Andover to a restaurant be progressed. Initially it was proposed that the community groups who had until this time been able to book the Lower Guildhall, would move to the Upper Guildhall, however this met with concern from some community groups.

Members considered the feedback from the community groups and instructed the Head of Estates to investigate the feasibility of an alternative venue for community use.

A review of the premises available for such community use was duly undertaken and an opportunity identified in Council owned premises in Union Street, providing ground floor accommodation in close proximity to the High St.

The Council established what became known as The Rendezvous in a double unit as a space for hire by community groups. This included those groups who had previously used the Lower Guildhall.

Current position regarding use of the Rendezvous

Although some previous users of the Lower Guildhall initially moved to The Rendezvous, none now continue to use the venue. The venue is now almost only booked by two regular hirers and is empty for a significant period each week. The

two regular hirers who currently book the venue pay the appropriate daily/hourly hire charge.

For 2016/17 the income from hire charges was £17,275 up to 24/03/2017 and the outgoings have been £22,727. Bookings significantly drop from around September and appear set to continue at a reduced level.

More recently the average monthly income received is £1,851.00. The monthly costs associated with the operation of the venue, including staff to unlock, attend and lock the venue, services, cleaning costs, rates etc. is £1,335.80. This does not include any costs for maintenance of the premises.

On average the venue is hired for 67 hours per month, with 38 of these hours being booked by organisation 1 and 29 of these hours being booked by organisation 2.

Further details regarding the details of the hirers are shown in Annex 1.
(Confidential)

Proposed Outcomes for consideration

Future use of the Rendezvous

It is clear that the venue is currently underutilised and that the regular users of the venue are not those community organisations that it was originally set up to serve.

Organisation 1 has recently approached the Council to enquire if the Council would be willing to lease The Rendezvous premises to them.

The Head of Estates has discussed this with them and the terms that are on offer are shown in Annex 1 (Confidential)

If this option were to be progressed then the other user, who currently book the venue for one half day per week, would be displaced and would need to find an alternative venue.

Alternatively Members may wish to consider a different approach.

Confidentiality

It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.

It is considered that the **Annex** to this report contains exempt information within the meaning of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended. It is further considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information because

No of Annexes:	One
----------------	-----