16. Major Projects

Item 16.1 CDG1174 King Island Hub – Update January 2024

Reporting: **Growth & Strategy Manager – Helen Thomas**

SUMMARY:

This report provides an update on activity on the King Island Hub through January 2024. This includes:

- Official Sod Turning Ceremony
- Proposed partnerships
- Year One activities
- George Street works

DISCUSSION

Official sod turning ceremony

Wednesday 31 January saw the official ceremony to commence construction at 38 Lighthouse St for the new King Island Hub, an exciting milestone in this project. The ceremony was attended by Senator Anne Urquhart, in light of the Federal Government funding this construction project, and Premier Jeremy Rockcliffe in recognition of the State government's funding for the feasibility study back in 2019. Mayor Marcus Blackie hosted the event, making all attendees welcome.

The ceremony was held in the Annexe, previously the General Manager's residence, with representatives from the future tenants of the Hub and the Annexe.

Proposed partnerships

Study King Island, operated by Study Hub West Coast, will be providing a dedicated study space for university students learning remotely within the Annexe, with TasTAFE and West North West Working, our regional jobs hub, also using this building during their regular visits to the Island. TasTAFE are partnering with Council to secure funding through Skills Tas to install audio visual equipment in the main Hub building which will make this space functional as a virtual classroom for VET and skills training.

KIRDO will be staffing the main Hub building and providing visitor information and the online access centre here, with parts of the building available for hire for meetings, training, exhibitions and events. The Annexe will also have a small meeting room and office available for occasional use, for example by visiting service providers and community groups.

Year One activities

As construction at Lighthouse St commences, the project team are shifting their efforts to building a program of activities for the first year of operations. Discussion with Council's arts consultant, Wendy Morrow, included reference to events and exhibitions that could complement work at The Gallery. A meeting with the King Island Historical Society in February / March 2024 will include discussion around a potential exhibition of our Island's history during 2025. Conversations are ongoing with a range of state government entities about the prospect of holding board meetings at the Hub during the year, as well as liaising with Business Events Tasmania to identify how we can best market this venue as an option for off-Island businesses.

Community members are invited to approach Council with any ideas they have for events and activities they would like to see hosted in the Hub.

George St works

Through January, the project team further refined the scope of the works at George Street and got an updated budget from the project's managing contractor. Over the course of February and into March, discussion with Service Tas will continue to determine their requirements for the space and how to align their required works with the program for the improvements to the Town Hall and foyer as an emergency management and recovery centre.

Much of the work at this site will be happening in the foyer and as such will have an impact on use of the Town Hall. The total construction program is estimated to be 3-4 months, with varying levels of impact on usage through that time. Materials will be purchased and delivered to site at the commencement of works to minimise the risk of delivery delays impacting the final program.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:
The activities detailed above are included within approved budgets, except where indicated otherwise.

Recommendation:

That Council receives and notes the King Island Hub Project Report for January 2024.

Moved Cr I Allan
Cr G Green
That Council receives and notes the King Island Hub Project Report for January 2024.
CARRIED unanimously
39/24