AGENDA ITEM 12

**COTSWOLDS DISCOVERY CENTRE PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

**Summary:** To provide an update on the Cotswolds Discovery Centre Partnership Board.

**Recommendation: That the latest progress report be noted.**

**Office Ref:** Martin Lane, Director (01451 862005)

**General Update**

1. The Partnership Board met on the 12th September 2018 and is due to meet again on the 27th November 2018.
2. In late September the Friends confirmed that they would not be providing a temporary café facility whilst the planned improvements and refurbishments were undertaken. As a result the Board has had to lay off all casual staff and make the Café Manager redundant, with associated costs.
3. The café and discovery centre closed at the end of business on Sunday 28th October 2018.
4. Contractors are due to start work in early November e.g. erection of scaffolding, however the overall work plans have suffered some disruption and the Board awaits a revised timeline;

* The Friends / contractors have still to accurately measure the glass for the glazing in the two galleries and to supply details to Cotswold District Council as part of the planning permission requirements.
* The lead contractor has suffered a fall and is in hospital, which has disrupted plans.

At this stage it is likely that the completion of the overall programme will slip a month until mid-March 2019.

1. The Leyhill Prison carpentry team were on site from the 29th October 2018 to repair the wagon sheds and relocate the shepherd’s huts.
2. The Friends are to draft a revised Agency Agreement for the Conservation Board’s consideration in terms of the future operation of the café and discovery centre. As per earlier reports the Conservation Board’s suggestions for modifications to the agreement are focused on;

* Friends to be responsible for the day to day maintenance and repair of Agency Agreement area.
* Friends to meet the costs of any insurance linked to the operation of the Agency Agreement area.
* Friends to pay business rates for the Agency Agreement area.
* Friends to be responsible for the care, conservation and interpretation of the Collection, currently on a 20-year loan from Cotswold District Council.

**Supporting paper(s):**

**None**