AGENDA ITEM 12 B

**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

**General Update**

1. The Partnership Board meeting scheduled for 27th November was postponed at the request of the Friends and the Board subsequently met on 8th February. It plans to meet next on 9th April.
2. The Friends of the Cotswolds’ contractors commenced work in early November on the planned improvements / refurbishments. However the original end date of late January / early February 2019 has slipped to mid April 2019. The creation of a new meeting space has been postponed; the Friends have decided to take this into a separate package of work and the design, planning approval and timelines are to be agreed.
3. 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. The meeting on the 8th February discussed the approach being advanced by the Friends, giving rise to a series of questions and discussion in an attempt to clarify their approach. Consequently a suggested updating of the Agency Agreement was received in early March and is to be considered by the Board’s representatives on the Partnership Board.
4. Members will recall that last autumn the Board requested that any new agreement reflect that:
* 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.
1. The previous tenants in the Old Police Station moved out at the end of December 2018 after a 5 month extension to their 5 year lease. John Thomson and Partners marketed the offices and a new tenant is due to occupy in late March/early April with a lease through to the end of June 2023, which will dovetail with the end date for the Board’s lease for office space.

**Supporting paper(s):**

**None.**