AGENDA ITEM 16B

**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 meeting scheduled for 27th November 2018 was postponed at the request of the Friends and the Board subsequently met on 8th February 2019. It plans to meet next on 9th April 2019.
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 now slipped to early April 2019.
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 2019 discussed the approach being advanced by the Friends, giving rise to a series of questions and discussion in an attempt to clarify their approach. These discussions will inform their drafting of any new agreement
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 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 have marketed the offices and a new tenant is due to occupy in March 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