

Questions asked at Full Council on 11th March 2024

From: Philip Carrigan

Date: 11 March 2024 at 11:20:39 GMT

To: Stephen Hill <Clerk@honiton.gov.uk>

Cc: Heloise Marlow <deputyclerk@honiton.gov.uk>, John Zarczynski Jill McNally

Subject: Public Question - Proposed Lease of Beehive

Regarding the proposed new 30 year lease of the Beehive;

a) are Councillors considering the option of taking the management of the Beehive into a fully Council owned company?

All options are initially being considered by the Beehive Working Group.

b) will Councillors consider commercial tenants not registered as charities with the Charities Commission?

Yes, Expressions of interest includes:

Appendix C of the EoI states:

“You” / “Your” refers to the potential supplier completing this standard Selection Questionnaire i.e. the legal entity responsible for the information provided. The term “potential supplier” is intended to cover any economic operator as defined by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (referred to as the “regulations”) and could be a registered company; the lead contact for a group of economic operators; charitable organisation; Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE); Special Purpose Vehicle; or other form of entity.

c) are Councillors considering offering inducements to a future tenant which are guaranteed by Honiton Town Council, other than the £1 per annum rent? How long do these guarantees last?

This will initially be considered by the Beehive Working Group and may be included in Tender document.

Introduction to the EoI states:

2.7 It is anticipated that the long lease will not require a cost contribution from the Town Council instead income derived from the Beehive and café will support its operating costs. It is expected that the lessee is successful in securing Grants. The lessee may apply for Council Grants.

d) has HCC, or HCC management expressed an interest, or suggested they are likely to express of interest in the new lease.

The closing deadline for Expression of Interest is 29 March 2024.

e) is it likely that HTC would entertain an interest from HCC/HCC management given their commercial failure to date?

The Expression of Interest asks financial questions.

Appendix A of the EoI states:

Economic and financial standing (EFS) 32. Potential lessees must demonstrate their economic and financial viability in terms of turnover, assets, number/type of employees, reserves, balance sheet and P&L account for the past 3 years. You should clearly state any minimum EFS requirements and selection criteria. You should also describe the methodology for assessing EFS clearly. Any minimum requirements should be proportionate.

Regards
Phil Carrigan

*Please note that the responses to questions from Honiton Town Council are in italic blue print.