

Chambers Institution Trust: Update report for PCC 10/09/26

Following a value-engineering exercise by the design team to adjust Phase 1 specifications and estimated costs to fit the strictly limited project budget, efforts are now concentrating on the construction tendering process, with fingers crossed that tenders received will be within budget.

Due to the holiday period, there has been no further summary progress report from the Project Board since the July report that was provided at the PCC meeting in July.

Meanwhile, fund-raising efforts continue through the fundraising sub-committee, of which I am an ongoing member. The new Friends SCIO is ready to play a part in applying for charitable funding where opportunities can be identified. The completed Phase 2 business plan and feasibility study will now form a key element in describing the now well-developed project vision to potential funders.

As Robin has mentioned, we are currently looking ahead to how the various elements of the Chambers Institution will operate after completion of the Phase 1 works, and what operational improvements can be made going forward in the shorter term in collaboration with Live Borders, Go Tweed Valley and other tenants. With this in mind, preliminary discussions have been held with the business planning consultant, Creative Services, with a view to the preparation of an addendum business plan to support the transition stage between Phase 1 and Phase 2, including a road map to the building of appropriate capabilities between the CIT and the Friends SCIO to enable the full implementation of the planned Phase 2 objectives in due course.

Sam Coe