

Project Update 5 3 April 2014

Interim update on main building work

We have only received two tenders back (having gone out to six following a pre-qualification process) and they are both significantly more than the budget available.

In discussion with HLF it is clear that we are not the first project to find themselves in this position, it is much more a factor of the rapid change in the market and is not a reflection on the Quantity Surveyor or the Cathedral!

HLF will not fund this level of shortfall and indeed may not be able to provide any further funds, they expect us to come up with options which start with us assessing what we can do with the funding available.

This means we are in the difficult position of having to think through our options for reducing the capital work without losing any of our funding from HLF or elsewhere. It may be that we can delay certain aspects of the work whilst we seek additional funding for them as a separate exercise.

Inevitably this will take a little time, not least because we will have to gain approval from HLF for any changes (as well as the Project Board and Chapter) to the capital works. Consequently we still can't say anything about the build timetable or indeed exactly what work we will be able to do.

This is immensely disappointing and frustrating for all of us at the Cathedral staff, congregation, volunteers, King's School and visitors. I can only beg your patience as we go through the process of exploring our options as quickly as we can. As soon as the way forward has been agreed and approved we will let you know.

Dr Edwina E Bell
3rd April 2004