

12 MILLS OBSERVATORY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (AN269-2004)

The Mills Observatory was refurbished in 2003 with help from the Heritage Lottery Fund to enhance security and disabled access and improve the quality of the decor of the building and its interpretative displays.

It is intended that any future developments at the Mills Observatory should be informed through a costed Development Plan in line with the City's Cultural Strategy so that a phased implementation over the next ten years can be planned. Possible developments to be investigated include a cafe and adjoining planetarium building and any development should be integrated into a scheme for the use of the whole of Greater Balgay Park.

The Development Plan will identify external funding sources to implement the programme.

Committee approval is sought to commission an architect to develop the plan and detailed costings in consultation with Leisure and Arts staff and an allowance of £3,000 has been allocated for architect's fees from the Leisure and Arts Capital Budget for 2004/2005.