

**CABINET****23 October 2013****Minute Extract****280. THE FUTURE OF THE MUSEUMS SERVICE: ESTABLISHING A HAMPSHIRE SOLENT CULTURAL TRUST**

(Report CAB2518 refers)

Councillor Humby welcomed the proposals outlined in the Report and emphasised they had resulted from a number of years work by the various parties involved. The changes had been driven by a desire to give the service a more sustainable future, in part by allowing more people access to the various collections currently held by both the City and County Councils. It was predicted that the proposals would result in an additional 15,000 or more visitors over a five year period. He stated that the Council would retain ownership of its collections and buildings, but these would be loaned or leased to the Trust.

The Assistant Director (Economy and Communities) advised that a briefing for all Members had been held the previous evening. One concern raised by Members was the potential loss of control for the Council. She stated that in order to maintain influence, the Council would nominate a trustee on the Board. In addition, the Portfolio Holder would be an Observer on the Board and regular Advisory Board meetings would be held at officer level.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Weir welcomed the Report and in particular the proposal's aim to increase access to the service through partnership working. She acknowledged some concerns regarding the need to ensure future robust governance arrangements. The Council still needed to keep a close involvement, whilst recognising the independent status of the new Trust. She believed it was also essential that key posts at the Trust, such as the Chief Executive, be adequately remunerated in order to attract the appropriate calibre of candidate.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Weir for her support.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the Report.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- 1. THAT THE PROPOSAL TO PROCEED WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HAMPSHIRE SOLENT CULTURAL TRUST (*WORKING TITLE*), IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, AS OUTLINED IN THE BUSINESS CASE (APPENDIX 1 OF CAB2518) BE APPROVED.**

**2. THAT A NET COST OF UP TO £53,000 OVER THE FIVE YEARS TO 2018/19 (DETAILED IN APPENDIX 2 OF CAB2518) BE APPROVED.**

**3. THAT AS THE GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS ALREADY MAKE PROVISION FOR THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER ROLE (TO BE TAKEN BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT), FULL COUNCIL BE ASKED TO MAKE THE WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENT TO THE INTERIM TRUSTEE BOARD.**

RESOLVED:

1. That the Head of Legal Services, in consultation with the Assistant Director (Economy and Communities), be authorised to agree terms and enter into a Partnering Agreement with Hampshire County Council on terms in accordance with those outlined in Appendix 4 to the Report.

2. That the transfer of the services and funding for the Council's Museums Service to the new Trust be agreed in principle, subject to detailed arrangements to be set out in the Partnering Agreement.

3. That the loan of Winchester City Council's museum collections to the new Trust for a minimum period of 25 years be agreed in principle.

4. That any future acquisitions made by the Trust which align with collecting policies for Winchester current at the time of this Report be held by the Trust on behalf of Winchester City Council;

5. That the leasing, sub-leasing or licensing as appropriate of individual museum properties and stores from the Council to the Trust, under long-term arrangements where feasible (with the minimum unexpired term at any time being 25 years where practicable) be agreed in principle, on terms to be agreed by the Head of Estates, with the Council being responsible for repairs, maintenance and insurance in accordance with current practice, and that it be noted that the City Council will be responsible for securing appropriate storage arrangements for the City Council collections at the expiry of the lease at its current F2 facility;

6. That the Council continue to insure the collections and premises against loss, damage and theft in accordance with current practice.

7. That the creation of an 18-month interim Executive Officer post for the Trust, initially seconded from one of the two Councils, be agreed, to commence from 1 January 2014 in order to manage establishment of the Trust.

8. That the Head of Human Resources be authorised to consult formally with affected staff and Union(s) regarding the details of the proposed transfer to the Trust;

9. That a final report regarding staffing matters be brought to Personnel Committee, following formal consultation with staff and Union(s).

10. That a final report regarding arrangements for the transfer of services to the Trust be brought to Cabinet in March 2014.

11. That the Assistant Director (Economy and Communities) be authorised to take any other steps that are reasonable and necessary in order to implement the above recommendations, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development.