



Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 08/04/19

To Councillor Ball, Portfolio Holder, Public Health, Leisure and Culture.

NON-KEY DECISION TO APPROVE HERITAGE DONCASTER'S COLLECTIONS DEVELOPMENT POLICY.

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Councillor Ball	None	No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report is being submitted as official approval of the Museum's Collections Development Policy.

The Collections Development Policy sets out, for the next five years, how and what the Museums will collect. The Policy has reviewed the current collections and identified areas of over and under-representation and the Policy commits to focusing on priority thematic areas for Museums in Doncaster.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. N/A

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. To approve the policy.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. In approving a Collections Development Policy for the Museum, it means that residents can expect a well-managed resource of Museum assets, in storage, in the process of being conserved, or on display, which reflect the needs, expectations and aspirations for the public when visiting and using the Museum's resources.

BACKGROUND

5. Heritage Doncaster's Collections Development Policy is an essential requirement for Museum Accreditation, which is administrated by the Museums Association and is aligned to the Associations code of ethical practice. It is a standard policy document for Museums in England.

If Doncaster Museum and Art Gallery, and Cusworth Hall were not accredited, the service would not be eligible for funding. For example, Heritage Doncaster is currently in receipt of £100,000 per year from the Arts Council as a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO)) – an NPO is considered an exemplar in its field of work nationally - and the service could not have achieved this without accreditation status.

The policy also sets out what Heritage Doncaster's museums will and will not collect, in order for the service to have a collection which best serves and represents the people of Doncaster, and ensures that the service limits the number of objects it collects so that the service can look after a smaller number of objects to a better standard.

This Collections Development Policy was written with a public consultation into what people wanted to see in Doncaster's museums.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6.
 - 1) To maintain a policy as in line with national sector standards, and the Museum Association's expectations, developed in consultation, ensuring the service achieves quality of provision and value for money. The policy ensures that the collections remains proportionate to the needs of service users and maintains the integrity of the collection for the borough.
 - 2) To maintain collections without a current and updated policy, which may lead to increased volume of collections, increased storage requirements, and at potential increased cost.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

7. Without an approved Collections Development Policy there are various risks to the service, and the adoption of the Policy ensures consistency in quality of service when benchmarked against other similar museums around the UK.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

8.

	Outcomes	Implications
	Doncaster Working: Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better access to good fulfilling work • Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish • Inward Investment 	
	<p>Doncaster Living: Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster • More people can live in a good quality, affordable home • Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport • Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean • Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage 	<p>Many residents use Museums to understand the world around them and improve their lives, whether through seeing cultural artefacts and resources, learning informally, or participating in events relating to local heritage and culture. The benefits of participating in this way have proven positive impacts on wellbeing for residents. Our Museums proactively encourage and support healthy participation and activity, for example in the use of resources in museums to aide reminiscence and memory for residents living with dementia. Museums support residents with various health and wellbeing needs, and carers, through events programming and digital skills / information literacy support. This is often at no cost to residents directly. Use of museums helps children and young people to learn to think independently and gain new perspectives, which enhance skills and learning outcomes, but which can also be applied at any age of life for Doncaster's residents. For the service to work effectively for the public, a clear and robust approach to the selection, retention and disposal of collections is required.</p>
	<p>Doncaster Learning: Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school • Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better • Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work 	

	<p>Doncaster Caring: Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have the best start in life • Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust • Older people can live well and independently in their own homes 	
	<p>Connected Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A modern, efficient and flexible workforce • Modern, accessible customer interactions • Operating within our resources and delivering value for money • A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents • Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths • Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance 	

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

9. If the Policy is not approved and made part of the service's working practice, then the following risks are presented:
- Collections which are too large, or not reflective of demand and need
 - The development of poor records management processes
 - Museum displays which do not necessarily reflect local stories and heritage, because collections were not developed in line with a cohesive and consistent approach
 - Ineffective approach to disposals, meaning too many assets become hoarded, creating pressures on storage space
 - Reputational / PR risk, if the service was perceived to be lacking effective oversight and management of its resources
 - Possible direct detriment to the collections – if too many assets are in store and on display, it is more time consuming to conserve and curate assets, leading to exposure to risk of deterioration of the asset.
 - The service may default on its duty to ensure that collections reflect the diversity of the borough's history, up to the present day and in future.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials HMP..... Date...27.3.19.....]

10. There are no specific legal implications with regard to this report. It is good practice to have a Collections Policy to ensure that a strategic view is taken of the collection and obtaining new items.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials OB Date 28/03/19.]

11. Heritage Doncaster's Collections Development Policy is an essential requirement for Museum Accreditation. Doncaster Museums require accreditation in order to access external funding. Heritage Services has been awarded National Portfolio Organisation funding by the Arts Council of £100k per annum for four years (2018-22). By not extending the current collections development policy, this funding would be at risk as it states in the additional terms and conditions of the funding that museums must maintain accredited status throughout the investment period.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials...BT... Date...21/03/2019.....]

12. There are no obvious HR implications arising from approving this particular Policy within the Report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials PW Date 22/03/19]

13. There are no specific technology implications at this stage. However, the Collections Development Policy confirms that the service are looking to develop a digital collection. Further consultation with ICT is needed as part of the planning for this, to ensure that the storage requirements, options and implications are fully considered.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials CEH Date 20.03.19]

14. There is evidence to show that engagement in art and cultural activities can improve mental and physical health. Museums are increasingly being considered as locations for health and wellbeing activities.

Despite the many health and wellbeing benefits of the arts, cultural engagement tends to be unevenly distributed across the social gradient. Analysis of national data generated by the Taking Part survey has shown that people who visit museums and galleries are disproportionately prosperous and well-educated professionals with disproportionate representation within age, ethnicity and health status categories.

It is recommended that continual work is undertaken to understand and overcome barriers to cultural participation particularly for underrepresented groups who may already be experiencing health inequalities.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: NS Date: 12/03/19]

15. The Policy will help to provide an improved service to the people of Doncaster by ensuring that their heritage as conserved for and represented in Museums is cared for. The Collections Development Policy will lead to practice whereby the service focuses on working with groups with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010, and commits Heritage Doncaster's Museums to collecting in those areas to ensure that collections and displays properly and appropriately represent the diverse people and communities of the borough.

CONSULTATION

16. Consultation has taken place with service users, service staff, and the Portfolio Holder.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

17. Heritage Doncaster Collections Development Policy

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

Nick Stopforth, Head of Libraries and Culture
Tel: 01302 862693
Email: nick.stopforth@doncaster.gov.uk

Damian Allen,
Director of Adults, Health and Wellbeing / Learning and Opportunities for
Children and Young People