

Agenda Item No: 6

Report to: Museums Committee

Date of Meeting: 20 June 2011

Report Title: Draft Policy on the Care and Treatment of Human Remains

Report By: Cathy Walling
Museum Curator

Purpose of Report

To present a policy acknowledging the special place human remains hold in the Museum collections and formalise their care.

Recommendation(s)

- 1. that the report is recommended for acceptance by Cabinet**

Reasons for Recommendations

Introduction

1. This policy covers collections held by Hastings Borough Council Museums Service.
2. Human remains have a unique status within museum collections. In many cases they have a personal, cultural, symbolic, spiritual or religious significance to individuals or groups. This places a special responsibility on those museums that hold them.
3. The Museum acknowledges the Guidance for the Care of Human remains in Museums (2005) published by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, which is used as a reference throughout this policy.
4. The Museum's present position on the care and use of human remains is set out in this document. It will be reviewed every five years.

Wards Affected

None

Area(s) Affected

None

Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	Yes
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No
Risk Management	Yes
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	No
Human Rights Act	Yes
Organisational Consequences	Yes

Background Information

Draft Policy on the Care and Treatment of Human Remains - Appendix A

Officer to Contact

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