

Agenda Item No: 6

Report to: Museums Committee

Date of Meeting: 17 March 2014

Report Title: Museum Accreditation Update

Report By: Cathy Walling
Museum Curator

Purpose of Report

To provide an update on the Museums' Accreditation status

Recommendation(s)

- 1. that the Committee accepts the report and are satisfied with the comments in the report**

Reasons for Recommendations

Introduction

1. The Accreditation Scheme for Museums and Galleries in the United Kingdom is administered by the Arts Council. Hastings Museum and Art Gallery and the Old Town Hall Museum were fully accredited in 2009-10 under the scheme. Both Museums will be invited to reapply in August 2014 with a returns completion date of 28 February 2015.

2. Accreditation is the UK standard for museums and galleries. It defines good practice and identifies agreed standards, thereby encouraging development. It is a baseline quality standard that helps guide museums to be the best they can be, for current and future users.

3. Aims of the Accreditation Scheme

a. To encourage all museums and galleries to achieve agreed standards in:

- how they are run
- how they manage their collections
- the experiences of users

b. To encourage confidence in museums as organisations that manage collections for the benefit of society and manage public funds appropriately.

c. To reinforce a shared ethical and professional basis for all museums.

4. The Accreditation Scheme has been updated by the Arts Council, and there is a requirement for new documentation. The following documents will need governing body approval:

- Forward Plan
- The Emergency Plan will now need to be reviewed and signed off at Governing Body level.
- Environmental Sustainability Statement
- Collections Development Policy (previously Acquisitions and Disposals)
- Documentation Policy
- Collections Care and Conservation Policy
- Access Policy

5. The review of the previous Forward Plan and a draft of the proposed new one will be brought to the next meeting of the Museums Committee. The other policies and statements will be brought to the next three meetings in order to meet the deadline required.

Wards Affected

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Report Template v25.0

Castle, Old Hastings

Area(s) Affected

Central Hastings, East Hastings

Policy Implications

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

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

Background Information

Officer to Contact

Cathy Walling
cwalling@hastings.gov.uk
01424 451151
