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## MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

25 JUNE 2018

Present: Councillors Forward (Chair), K Beaney, Levane, O'Callaghan, Patmore and Webb.

Museum Association Representatives: Mrs Barrett, Mrs Purdey, Mr Peak, Mr Palfrey-Martin and Mr Geoffrey Dudman.

### **126. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Bishop. Lateness was noted for Councillor Webb and absence was noted for Councillor Sinden.

### **127. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

### **128. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 12 MARCH 2018**

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2018 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### **129. NOTIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEMS**

None.

### **130. MUSEUMS COMMITTEE CHANGES**

This item was carried forward from the agenda of the last meeting for the report to be completed.

Polly Gifford, Cultural Regeneration Manager, presented the report on the proposed changes to the format of the Museum Committee (which is an advisory committee) to propose greater efficiency and effectiveness and to help re-focus the Committee so that it can better support and advise the Museum as it continues to develop its programme and capital ambitions.

The Cultural Regeneration Manager explained the format of the Curators Report had been reduced to simplify and enrich how the Museum Committee works. She advised of the proposed changes to the Museum schedule: to hold two of the quarterly informal committee meetings at the Museum instead of the Council Chamber, so that it would provide the committee with the opportunity to engage with the collections and staff at the Museum. If an item is raised at an informal meeting that needs to be discussed and formally reported, she said it will be brought to the next formal committee meeting.

## MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

25 JUNE 2018

Issues raised during discussion were concerns regarding reduced attendance and the length of time between formal meetings. Some members requested that a Council Officer (Administrator) should always be present at the meeting.

Councillor Forward said that moving two meetings to the Museum will widen the focus of the committee, particularly with Councillors and enable them to familiarise themselves with the Museum and to listen to the young curators. She welcomed the opportunity for two informal meetings at the Museum. She advised members that they could raise any matters arising from those meetings at the formal meetings.

Councillor Forward proposed a motion to recommend the resolution as set out in the officers report; that the Committee support the proposed changes. This was seconded by Councillor Levane.

**RESOLVED by (5 votes to 6 against) that the committee do not support the proposed changes.**

### 131. CURATOR'S REPORT

Cathy Walling, Museum Curator, presented a report to update members on issues arising from previous meetings and confirmation of curator's actions, with visitor figures and information on exhibitions and events.

Mr Palfrey-Martin proposed a motion to recommend the resolution as set out below. This was seconded by Cllr Patmore.

**RESOLVED (unanimously) that the committee accepts the report and are satisfied with the comments in the report.**

### 132. RESILIENCE UPDATE

The Curator presented a report which summaries the findings and recommendations so far of the second Museum Resilience Project.

The report provided an update into progress on the four main areas identified for improvement in Stage 1 review:-

- Improving visibility of the Museum through marketing and promotion
- Audience Development and engagement
- Collections review to ensure effective working practices
- Business and project development expertise.

The Curator advised the project is complete and that all plans and strategies were in draft format, pending the appointment of the Museum and Cultural Services Manager.

Mrs Purdey proposed a motion to recommend the resolution as set out below. This was seconded by Mr Peak.

## MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

25 JUNE 2018

**RESOLVED** (unanimously) that the committee accepts the report and are satisfied with the comments in the report.

### 133. **MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS**

The Curator presented a report which provided an overview of the items recently acquired by the Museum in the last quarter and the names of donors.

Mrs Purdey proposed a motion to recommend the resolution as set out below. This was seconded by Mr Palfrey-Martin.

**RESOLVED** (unanimously) that the committee accepts the report and is satisfied with the report.

### 134. **ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)**

The Chair thanked the outgoing Curator, Cathy Walling, for her commitment to the Museum during the last 30 years and wished her a long and happy retirement.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 3.52 pm)

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