

Agenda Item: 5

Report to: Museums Committee

Date: 10th December 2007

Report from: Museum Curator

Title of report: **MUSEUM ACCREDITATION**

Purpose of report: To inform the Committee that the Museum and Art Gallery has been awarded full Accreditation status by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council.

Recommendations: The report is for noting

1.0 Details

- 1.1 The Hastings Museum and Art Gallery was awarded Full Accreditation status at a meeting of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) on 22 November 2007. A letter and certificate will be received within the next two weeks to confirm this.
- 1.2 The Accreditation scheme was introduced by the MLA in 2004 to replace the Museum Registration scheme which had been running since 1988. Both Hastings Museum and Art Gallery and the Old Town Hall Museum were registered under the earlier scheme from 1991.
- 1.3 Both Registration and Accreditation set national standards for Museum management and these have been updated to reflect changes in the role of Museums. The name of the scheme has been changed to Accreditation which reflects more closely its purpose and values.
- 1.4 The scheme enables museums and their governing bodies to assess performance and supports the planning and development of future services.
- 1.5 There are three main aims :
 - (i) To encourage all museums and galleries to achieve agreed minimum standards in museum management, user services, visitor facilities and collections management.
 - (ii) To foster confidence in museums as bodies which hold collections in trust for society and manage public resources appropriately
 - (iii) To reinforce a shared ethical basis for all bodies which meet the definition of a 'museum'.
- 1.6 Key benefits of Accreditation include eligibility for grant-aid and awards offered by a range of organisations, including the Heritage Lottery Fund, the MLA/V&A Purchase Grant Fund and the Artfund. Potential donors of objects or collections are also made to feel confident that the Museum is a suitable repository.
- 1.7 Hastings Museum and Art Gallery was awarded provisional Accreditation status in November 2006 dependent on the completion of the Museum Improvements project. The Old Town Hall Museum was awarded full Accredited Status also in November 2006

2.0 Policy implications

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

Equalities & Community Cohesiveness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Risk Management	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic / Financial implications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Rights Act	<input type="checkbox"/>
Organisational Consequences	<input type="checkbox"/>

Any ticked areas should be referred to in the text of the report under the heading “policy implications”

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