

**Agenda Item No:** 8

**Report to:** Museums Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 22 June 2009

**Report Title:** Review of Acquisition and Disposal Policy

**Report By:** Cathy Walling  
Acting Museums Curator

---

**Purpose of Report**

to present the updated Acquisition and Disposal policy

---

**Recommendation(s)**

**1. this report is for noting**

---

**Reasons for Recommendations**

---

## Background

The Acquisition and Disposal Policy for Hastings Museum and Art Gallery and Old Town Hall Museum was adopted in 2003, with additions made in 2006. It was due for review in 2008.

The purpose of the policy is to comply with requirements of the MLA Accreditation scheme and to reinforce public confidence in the Museum as a repository for donations.

To maintain the integrity of the Accreditation scheme, Museums are now required to adopt the 2008 version of the policy which has been brought up to date and reflects recent legal changes.

The Policy applies to:

1. Material which the museum owns or to which it intends to acquire legal title
2. Material which the museum owns and has accessioned into the collection or intends to win and accession into the collection.

The acquisition, management and disposal of collections will flow from:

3. A museum's constitution and statement of purpose
4. The legal basis on which the collections are held
5. The public benefit derived from the effective use and management of the collections
6. An assessment of the needs of the museum's collections
7. The collections held by other museums and organisations collecting in the same or related geographic areas or subject fields.

Financially motivated disposal risks damaging public confidence in museums and the principle that collections should not normally be regarded as financially negotiable assets (MA Code of Ethics, 2008, paragraph 6.13).

The attached updated version of the Acquisition and Disposal Policy must be formally accepted by the Museum's Governing Body.

Changes have been made in:

- 8g - Acquisition of Human remains
- 10 - Repatriation and Restitution of objects and human remains
- 12f,g,i,j, - Disposal Procedures
- 12n-r - Additional paragraphs on Disposal by Exchange

---

**Wards Affected**

Ashdown, Baird, Braybrooke, Castle, Central St. Leonards, Conquest, Gensing, Hollington, Maze Hill, Old Hastings, Ore, Silverhill, St. Helens, Tressell, West St. Leonards, Wishing Tree

---

**Area(s) Affected**

Central Hastings, East Hastings, North St. Leonards, South St. Leonards

---

**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	Yes
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	Yes

---

**Supporting Documents**

Hastings Museum and Art Gallery Acquisition and Disposal Policy

---

**Officer to Contact**

Cathy Walling  
cwalling@hastings.gov.uk  
01424 451151

---