

Agenda Item No: 6

Report to: Museums Committee

Date of Meeting: 16 February 2011

Report Title: Update on Budget Proposals

Report By: Cathy Walling
Museum Curator

Purpose of Report

to provide an update to members on the proposals in the Draft Corporate Plan and Budget and to make recommendation to Cabinet on which day to close the Museum and Art Gallery.

Recommendation(s)

- 1. That Museums Committee recommend that Hastings Museum and Art Gallery closes to the public on Mondays**

Reasons for Recommendations

Introduction

Hastings Borough Council has now published its draft Corporate Plan, and Efficiencies, Income and Savings Proposals for 2011/12 and 2012/13. All comments on the proposals will be considered by the Cabinet on 16 February,

The Full Council will receive recommendations from the Cabinet and will make the final decisions on the Corporate Plan and Budget on 28 February.

Corporate Plan

The Council's Corporate Plan sets out the targets we will be working to achieve during 2011/12. For the Museum this is:

Provide an exhibition and education programme for visitors to our Museums. Develop proposals for their long-term sustainability in light of financial constraints.

Measures:

- Visitor targets achieved.
- Proposals for management of Old Town Hall Museum developed.

Budget Proposals

The two proposals which affect the Museum service are:

- Close the Museum and Art Gallery one day a week – the Museum's Committee to advise which day
- Reduce the operating budget for temporary exhibitions and education

It is hoped that closing the Museum for one day a week will save approximately £10,000 per annum. This saving can be achieved by altering staff working patterns to reduce reliance on casual staff.

Research from other local Museums suggests that the most popular days for closing are Sunday and Monday.

Museum	Closed	Exception
Brighton	Monday	Bank Holidays
Booth (Brighton)	Thursday	
Bexhill	Monday	Bank Holidays
Canterbury	Sundays in winter	
Chichester	Sunday and Monday	
Pallant House (Chichester)	Monday	
Redoubt (Eastbourne)	Monday	
Towner (Eastbourne)	Monday	
Dover	Sunday	

Hove	Wednesday	
Maidstone	Open every day	
Portsmouth	Open every day	
Worthing	Sunday and Monday	
Horsham	Sunday	
Reading	Monday	Bank Holidays

A brief analysis has also been made of visitor figures to the Museum on the two days in question. In 2010 there were a total of 3,276 visitors to the Museum on Sundays and 4,745 on Mondays. The figure for Mondays includes 1,372 who visited as part of an educational group.

Although the pattern is of more visitors on Mondays, it is recommended that this is the day that the Museum closes. It is hoped that the educational visits, mostly Foreign Language Schools, will be able to change the day they come. Sunday is the only day available for leisure visits for many people and is also becoming a popular day for wedding ceremonies.

It is also suggested that the Museums' opening times on Sunday are reduced by one hour to 12 - 5, instead of 11- 5. This further reduces reliance on casual staff to cover the lunch-time period

Wards Affected

Castle

Area(s) Affected

Central 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	No
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	Yes

Background Information

Officer to Contact

Cathy Walling
cwalling@hastings.gov.uk
01424 451151

