

Agenda Item No: 7

Report to: Museums Committee

Date of Meeting: 16 February 2011

Report Title: Update on Operational Review of Old Town Hall

Report By: Cathy Walling
Museum Curator

Purpose of Report

To update members on progress on the operational review of the Old Town Hall Museum

Recommendation(s)

1. the report is for noting

Reasons for Recommendations

Introduction

1. Background

A review of current service provision at the Old Town Hall Museum was initially proposed to consider the impact of the operation of the Tourist Information Centre. In recognition of possible future budget reductions the review has been widened to look at options for the future delivery of all services at the Old Town Hall Museum.

2. Results of Survey

A questionnaire was sent to 500 members of the Museum Association, other local societies and to all schools in Hastings and St Leonards. Copies were also available for the public visiting both of the Museum sites.

A total of 40 questionnaires were returned. The main results are as follows:

The 5 most important services offered at the Old Town Hall Museum.

1. Permanent displays on history of the Old Town
2. Fully accessible building
3. Museum Shop
4. Information and leaflets for tourists
5. Archive Film footage

The 5 least important services offered at the Old Town Hall Museum

1. Railway tickets
2. Accommodation booking
3. East Sussex County Council information kiosk
4. Vegetable bag collection point
5. Toilet facilities

The 5 most important services to be in an Old Town location

1. Permanent displays on history of the Old Town
2. Fully accessible building
3. Information and leaflets for tourists
4. Museum shop
5. Archive film footage

The 5 least important services to be in an Old Town location

1. Vegetable bag collection point
2. Railway tickets
3. East Sussex County Council information kiosk
4. Accommodation booking
5. Toilet facilities

There were many varied suggestions and comments on the future sustainability of the Old Town Hall Museum.

3. Conclusion

The results of the questionnaire will feed into the analysis of the range of options for the future sustainability of the Old Town Hall Museum. There will be a full report on the proposals to a future meeting.

Wards Affected

Old Hastings

Area(s) Affected

East Hastings

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

Background Information

Officer to Contact

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