

Report to: Museums Committee

Date of Meeting: 27 June 2016

Report Title: Museums Association Code of Ethics

Report By: Cathy Walling
Museum Curator

Purpose of Report

To inform members of the Museums Association Code of Ethics for Museums

Recommendation(s)

- 1. That the Committee accepts the report and are satisfied with the comments in the report and recommend that the Code of Ethics is adopted**

Reasons for Recommendations

Introduction

1. The Museums Association (MA) is the non-governmental, independently financed membership organisation and charity which provides services to museums and those who work for and govern them. The MA has acted as the guardian of UK museum ethics since the first Codes of Practice and Conduct were introduced in 1977.
2. This updated version of the Code of Ethics for Museums outlines ethical principles for all museums in the UK and was agreed following an 18-month consultation process during 2014-15.
3. The Code of Ethics defines standards that are often higher than those required by law, and cannot override legal obligations and rights of those who work in museums.
4. The Code must be subordinate to the legal powers and obligations of governing bodies responsible for museums and the legal powers and obligations of individual members of such bodies.
5. However, the MA believes this code's provisions to be in the best interests of the public and therefore urges all museum governing bodies formally to adopt it.

Wards Affected

None

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	Yes
Environmental Issues	Yes
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	No
Local People's Views	No
Anti-Poverty	No

Additional Information

Code of Ethics for Museums

Officer to Contact

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