

Agenda Item No: 8

Report to: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 3 November 2014

Report Title: Museum Forward Plan

Report By: Virginia Gilbert
Head of Amenities, Resorts and Leisure

Purpose of Report

To present the Museum Forward Plan for 2014-19

Recommendation(s)

- 1. That Cabinet adopt the Museum Forward Plan and Key Actions to support our application for reaccreditation by the Arts Council**

Reasons for Recommendations

A Forward Plan for the Museum Service is a requirement of the Museum Accreditation scheme, which is run by the Arts Council. This Plan was presented in draft form to Museums Committee on 16 June 2014. Suggested changes were incorporated and presented to Museums Committee on 15 September 2014 where it was resolved that the Committee accepted the report and were satisfied with the comments in the report, subject to minor changes which have since been made.

Introduction

1. A Forward Plan for the Museum Service is a requirement of the Museum Accreditation scheme, which is run by the Arts Council. The Accreditation scheme sets nationally recognised standards for Museums in the UK and enables the institutions and their governing bodies to assess their current performance and plan and develop their services.
2. The Accreditation scheme assesses organisational health, collections care and management, and the quality of visitor experience. The aim is to encourage confidence in museums as organisations that manage collections for the benefit of society and manage public funds appropriately.
3. As an accredited Museums service, we are able to obtain loans of artifacts and collections from other museums and are eligible for various grant programmes which are only open to accredited institutions.
4. Hastings Museum and Art Gallery and the Old Town Hall Museum have been fully accredited since 2007. We have now been invited to reapply with returns due by the end of February 2015. All new and updated Museum policy documents will need to have been approved before this date.
5. This Forward Plan will replace the Forward Plan 2010-13, and considers the achievements of the last three years as well as the proposed Action Plan for the next five years.

Financial Considerations

6. Officers acknowledge the continuing difficult financial picture in which the Council must operate. This Forward Plan is written to comply with accreditation requirements whilst acknowledging the need to freeze or reduce costs whilst maintaining standards through the use of volunteers, increasing income from events and sales and any other cost-saving measures that may emerge.

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

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	No
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	Yes
Local People's Views	No

Background Information

Museum Forward Plan 2014-2019

Officer to Contact

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