

**Report to:** Museums Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 14 September 2015

**Report Title:** Local History Displays

**Report By:** Cathy Walling  
Museum Curator

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### **Purpose of Report**

to update members on plans for the display of local history material moved from Old Town Hall Museum

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### **Recommendation(s)**

- 1. That the Committee accepts the report and are satisfied with the comments in the report.**

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### **Reasons for Recommendations**

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## Introduction

1. Following the closure of the Old Town Hall Museum in April 2015 the objects displayed there were packed away and put into storage at the Corporate Archive. The ships' figureheads are on display in the Long Gallery and relevant material will be added to the cases there in October. There has been a temporary display of material about Waterloo in the Lower Walkway, a display on the 16th and 17th centuries, and local history material is included in the WWI exhibition in the Upper Walkway. Public access to archives and collections has continued in the Long Gallery on Wednesdays.

2. The local history material will be going on display in 2016 as part of the town's celebration of the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings. The exhibition which will open in June 2016 will tell the story of Hastings since 1066 in 66 objects, an engaging new interpretative journey through the 950year development of the town since Norman times through the collections of the Museum. The exhibition will have a chronological framework through which visitors can explore local and national events and individual stories. Some will reflect particular moments in time, others will tell stories of continuous themes and gradual change.

3. The final selection of objects and stories to be included will be made through public consultation and voting via social media, talks and pop-up displays around the Museum. For example, stories to be told for the 20th century could include Tressell, Mods & Rockers, WWI and WWII, Sidney Little, Baird, Suffragettes, slum clearances and others.

4. There will be a final case for a people's gallery for objects which tell community histories and perhaps hopes for the future.

5. It is anticipated that Logie Baird's story will be told in the new displays, and that therefore the current Baird gallery can be redisplayed at the same time to tell the early history of the town from Prehistory through Romans to Saxons.

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## Wards Affected

Castle

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## 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	No
Local People's Views	No

Anti-Poverty

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**Additional Information**

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**Officer to Contact**

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