



North Devon Council

Report Date: 1st November 2021

Topic: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon Collections Development Policy

Report by: Museum Manager

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon is an Accredited Museum.

Museum Accreditation is a national scheme for maintaining and improving the quality of museums and is managed by Arts Council England.

1.2. The majority of policies and procedures for Accreditation can be approved under delegated powers. However the Collections Development Policy must be approved by the Governing Body of the museum, which is North Devon Council.

1.3. The Collections Development Policy is required to follow a certain format and includes specific wording as required by Arts Council England.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. That North Devon Council adopts the Collections Development Policy 2021-2026 for the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. To ensure the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon's Collections Development Policy is fit for purpose and satisfies the requirements of the Museum Accreditation.

4. REPORT

4.1. The Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon's current Collections Development Policy ran from 2015-2020 and is now due for renewal. The policy is appended here.

4.2. The policy ensures that our collections are relevant to the museum's purpose and that we collect with due attention to the wishes of depositors and our ability to care for the collections for perpetuity.

4.3. Although the Barnstaple and North Devon Museum Development Trust and its membership organisation the Friends of the Museum have a role in raising funds for and securing items for the collection, any donations received by this route are subject to the same decision-making process as any other donation to the Museum.

4.4. There have been no changes to the specific wording required by Arts Council England since the last policy approved in 2015; however we have reviewed our collecting and disposal priorities to limit further expansion of the collections. This is outlined in sections 4.1 – 4.13 of the policy.

4.5. The museum is embarking on a programme of collections rationalisation to free up space in the stores. The likely disposals arising from this will be of unaccessioned items (excavated pottery, items in the handling collection and uncollected loans). Further rationalisation will require a formal disposal process as outlined in the policy sections 5.1 – 5.3.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1. None at present beyond current resources

6. EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

6.1. No impact identified.

7. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

7.1. Article of Part 3 Annexe 1 paragraph 1

7.2. Referred or delegated power: Strategy and Resources Committee

8. STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

8.1. This report contains no confidential information or exempt information under the provisions of Schedule 12A of 1972 Act.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1. The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Arts Council Guidance notes for Museum Accreditation

(The background papers are available for inspection and kept by the author of the report).

10. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

10.1. The author (below) confirms that advice has been taken from all appropriate Councillors and Officers:

Sarah Jane Mackenzie Shapland: Head of Place, Property and Regeneration

Simon Fuller: Senior Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

Councillor David Worden: Leader