

**JOINT MUSEUMS COMMITTEE
23 NOVEMBER 2015**

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

Recommendation

- 1. The Museums General Manager recommends that:**
 - a) the revised Museum Collection Development and Collection Management Policies be approved; and**
 - b) the Joint Museums Committee recommends the two Collection Development Policies for approval by Worcester City Council and Worcestershire County Council.**

Background

2. Policies guiding the acquisition, disposal and care of objects in the museum collections are important frameworks for Museums Worcestershire to follow in the development and management of the museum collections of Worcester City Council and Worcestershire County Council. The Museums Shared Services Agreement and Arts Council England's national Museum Accreditation standard both include detailed guidance on the content and format of these policies.
3. The Collection Development Policies (previously called Acquisition and Disposal Policies) were last approved by Worcester City Council and Worcestershire County Council in July 2008. The intervening period has enabled Museums Worcestershire to understand in detail where the two collections overlap and where there are gaps, and these revised policies reflect that detailed knowledge.
4. The two collections continue to be managed separately but in parallel. The Collections Management was last approved by the Joint Museums Committee in 2012 and work is now much advanced to bring all management processes together to make the tasks more efficient.
5. The Museum Accreditation standard now reflects a mature debate about the disposal of collection items and this is reflected by the inclusion in the policies of a section laying out priorities for rationalisation.
6. The Joint Statement on Unethical Sale from Museum Collections from the major museum funding bodies in March 2015 clarifies the implications of disposing of collections outside of the framework of Accreditation standards.

7. Acquisition and Disposal procedures have been created with the advice of the Museums Association which Museums Worcestershire will follow to ensure the Accreditation standard is not compromised.

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Specific Contact Points for this report

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Supporting Information

- Appendix 1 - Museums Worcestershire Collections Management Policy 2015-20
- Appendix 2 - Worcester City Museum Collection Development Policy 2015-20
- Appendix 3 - Worcestershire County Museum Collection Development Policy 2015-20
- Appendix 4 - Museums Worcestershire Acquisition and Disposal Procedures
- Appendix 5 - Joint Statement - Unethical Sale from Museum Collections, March 2015

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Museums General Manager) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Museum Accreditation report (JMC 21 Sept 2015, item 6)

Museums Shared Service Partnership Agreement, Schedules 2 and 7, April 2010