

Joint Museums Committee
Thursday, 17 November 2022

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JOINT MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

17th November 2022

Present: Councillor Marcus Hart in the Chair

Councillors Agar and Roberts

Officers: Philippa Tinsley, Museums Manager
Hannah Perrott, Assistant Director,
Communities (Worcestershire County
Council
Helen Large, Museums Audiences Manager
Mark Baldwin, Head of Finance
Trina Cassidy, Assistant Accountant
Deborah Fox, Senior Curator
David Nash, Curator – Social History

Apologies: Councillor Mrs L. Hodgson

26 Appointment of Substitutes

None.

27 Declarations of Interest

None.

28 Public Participation

None.

29 Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 6th October 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

30 Quarter 2 Performance Report 2022-23

The Joint Committee received a report on the performance for the 2nd Quarter of 2022-23.

The Museums Audience Manager highlighted the key points for each of the Museums, appendix 1 attached to the report identified the performance comparisons. The Joint Committee's attention was drawn to the visitor feedback. The performance during this period placed the County Museum and Worcester Art Gallery and Museum back on their pre-covid growth trends.

Joint Committee Members noted the progress against targets in Quarter 2, attached as appendix 2 to the report.

Officers responded to questions from Joint Committee Members.

RESOLVED: That the Joint Committee note the performance information for the 2nd quarter 2022-23.

31 Quarter 2 Finance Report 2022-23

The Joint Committee received the financial monitoring details, including budget variances for the 2nd Quarter ending 30th September 2022. The report provided information on the position at Quarter 2, including an explanation of main variances and reserves.

The Head of Finance presented the report and informed Joint Committee Members that the forecast year end position for the city hosted teams at Quarter 2 is breakeven.

The Joint Committee's attention was drawn to paragraph 3.6 of the report, 2nd paragraph referring to the 2022-23 pay award for which additional work is required on both budgets, but being approached differently at each authority. Estimates for the pay award have been included in the City Council service projections, but not yet in County Council services projections.

RESOLVED: That the Joint Committee note the financial monitoring details, including budget variances for the 2nd quarter ended 30th September 2022.

32 2022-23 and 2023-24 Budget

The Joint Committee considered a report on the 2022-23 and 2023-24 budget. The Joint Museums agreement sets out that the Committee should plan the annual budget for the joint service by the end of November each year.

The Museums Manager presented the report and informed the Joint Committee Members that in year adjustments will need to be made following the recent 2022-23 pay award for local authority staff. Details of this were provided in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 of the report.

Joint Committee Members were informed that the preferred option was to meet the national pay award within the 2022-23 ring-fenced budgets by making changes across all budgets. These changes were highlighted in paragraph 4.1 of the report, and on this basis can meet the savings without affecting cuts to the service.

The Joint Committee Members expressed support for the preferred option.

RESOLVED: That the Joint Committee approve the proposals set out in the report to meet the staff pay award commitments in 2022-23 and the savings requested for 2023-24.

33 Tickenhill Collection Trust Annual Report

The Joint Committee received the annual report of the Tickenhill Trust, which was appended as Appendix 1, and provided Joint Committee Members with an oversight of the Trust's activities in 2021.

The Museums Manager stated that both income and expenditure for the Trust in 2021-22 were nil, with work undertaken by volunteers and supported by staff funded by Worcestershire County Council.

The Tickenhill Collection continues to be managed and cared for in parallel to the Worcestershire County Museums collection. The upcoming lease end dates at the County Museum and Collections Store will both impact on the Tickenhill Collection.

As Trustee of the Tickenhill Collection, Worcestershire County Council will need to consider the best interests of the charity as part of the options appraisal.

The Curator – Social History presented the annual report and highlighted the main points. The Joint Committee Members were provided with a demonstration of a Nicole Freres Grand Overture Box, constructed in Geneva in 1885, which has recently been conserved.

RESOLVED: That the Committee

- 1. receive the annual report regarding the activities of the Tickenhill Collection in 2021-22; and**
- 2. note the position of the Tickenhill Trust within the upcoming planning for the County Museum.**

34 Joint Museums Committee Work Programme

The Joint Committee considered its future work programme. The Museums Manager presented the report and highlighted the main items for consideration at future meetings.

There were no additional items added to the work programme by Joint Committee Members.

RESOLVED: That the Joint Committee note the work programme.

35 Art Gallery and Museum Development

The Joint Committee considered an update report on plans to develop the Art Gallery and Museum.

Worcester City Council and Museums Worcestershire are committed to improving the offer at the Art Gallery and Museums with the vision that the cultural destinations of Worcester are central to its economic success.

The Museums Manager highlighted the main points in the report with regard to funding received to enable future development to take place and what was planned going forward.

The current Canaletto exhibition had been planned to maximise learning towards future business models for the Art Gallery and Museum and a report summarising this learning will be brought to the Committee next year. Joint Committee Members looked forward to receiving the report.

The Museums Manager responded to questions from Joint Committee Members.

RESOLVED: That the Joint Committee note the progress on plans to develop the Art Gallery and Museum.

36 Any Other Business

None.

Duration of the meeting: 3.30p.m. to 4.20p.m.

Chair at the meeting on
2nd March 2023