

**CABINET**  
**23 SEPTEMBER 2021****THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHARITABLE BODY TO SUPPORT  
MUSEUM FUNDRAISING**

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**Relevant Cabinet Member**  
Councillor M Dormer

**Relevant Chief Officer**  
Strategic Director for People

**Recommendation**

1. **The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Communities recommends that Cabinet:**
  - a) **Authorises the Council's involvement in the establishment of a charitable body that would support fundraising for the City and County museums;**
  - b) **Delegates authority to the Strategic Director of People in consultation with the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Communities, to enter into all necessary legal agreements to establish the charitable body.**

**Background**

2. At their meeting on 18 June, the Joint Museums Committee approved in principle the setup this year of a charitable body to support fundraising for the City and County museums.
3. This charitable body will enable the museums to apply for a wider range of grants towards projects and future development and will create a more tax-advantageous vehicle for individual's donations.
4. The charity will be overseen by a board of trustees who will be advocates for the museums' development in the local community and to grant-giving foundations. They will have a scrutiny role ensuring funding is spent as intended.
5. The establishment of the new charity is not intended to change the way the joint museums service is governed by the Joint Museums Committee or managed operationally.
6. If approved, a joint working party will be formed to review the proposed objects and terms to establish the charity. Worcester City Council is procuring external specialist advice to support this work.
7. The reporting arrangements between the new charity trustees and the Joint Museums Committee will be considered by the joint working party, taking specialist advice.

8. There may also be future opportunities to review the museum's business rates position via charitable trust status, although this would require additional governance changes for the County's museum.
9. Any changes proposed to the Joint Museums Agreement (made in 2010) would return as a Cabinet decision.

### **Legal, Financial and HR Implications**

10. The charitable body will grant-fund the City and the County Council to undertake projects and development, expenditure will continue through existing processes. The working group will propose a policy and process for grant decisions and transfers to be adopted by the charity's trustees.
11. Best-practice models in operation elsewhere have been consulted to inform this proposal. Funding to engage specialist legal advice on the set up has been set aside from museum reserves.

### **Joint Equality, Public Health, Data Protection and Sustainability Impact Assessments**

12. A joint impact assessment screening will be carried out by the working party and any recommendations will be integrated into their work programme.

### **Supporting Information**

[Worcester City Council Policy & Resources Committee report \(agenda point 10\)](#)  
[Joint Museums Committee report \(agenda point 10\)](#)

### **Contact Points**

County Council Contact Points  
County Council 01905 763763

#### Specific Contact Points for this report

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### **Background Papers**

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Strategic Director for People) there are no background papers in support of this report.