

**Joint Museums Committee
21 September 2015**

6. MUSEUM ACCREDITATION

Recommendation

1. **The Museums General Manager recommends that:**
 - a) **the invitation to apply for Museum Accreditation be noted; and**
 - b) **the work required on policies and procedures be authorised for ratification at the next meeting.**

Background Information

2. The Accreditation Scheme sets nationally agreed standards for museums in the UK. There are currently just under 1,800 museums participating in the scheme, demonstrating their commitment to managing collections effectively for the enjoyment and benefit of users. The scheme is administered by Arts Council England. The advantages of Accreditation are summed up as follows:

- It is quality standard that serves as an authoritative benchmark for assessing performance, rewarding achievement and driving improvement
- It raises awareness and understanding of museums, building confidence and credibility both within the governing body and among the public
- It helps museums to improve their focus on meeting users' needs and interests and developing their workforce
- It helps museums to examine their services and to encourage joint working within and between organisations
- It helps with forward planning by formalising procedures and policies
- It demonstrates that a museum has met a national standard, which strengthens applications for public and private funding and gives investors' confidence in the organisation.

3. Museums Worcestershire has been invited to apply to renew its Accreditation status in February 2016.

4. The standard embraces all areas of museum operations from governance, leadership and planning to customer care and the user experience. There are a range of issues to be addressed and evidence that Museums Worcestershire will need to provide as part of the

application.

5. Certain policies require updating and revision and the approval of the joint committee as the governing body. These include matters relating to collections development, the monitoring of performance and environmental policy. These will be the subject of a further report to the Joint Committee in November.

Contact Points

Specific Contact Point for this report:

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the Museums General Manager the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Museum Accreditation Standard (Oct 2011)