

Decision Record – Heritage and Culture Warwickshire - OOP Consultation for the Reconfiguration of Service Delivery

Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking the decision	Cllr Jeff Clarke Environment
Date of Decision (not before 19 August 2016)	19/08/2016

Decision Taken

That the Portfolio Holder for Environment approves the commencement of a public consultation on proposals for the reconfiguration of the Heritage & Culture Service to achieve One Organisational Plan savings.

Reasons for Decisions

The Constitution of the County Council requires that the agreement of the relevant Portfolio Holder is obtained prior to the commencement of a consultation exercise.

Background Information

Heritage & Culture Warwickshire (HCW) provides a wide range of services that safeguard and promote Warwickshire's archives, human history and natural sciences and provide residents and visitors with opportunities to engage with local heritage, visitor attractions and cultural opportunities that support lifelong learning through high quality education activities and events programmes.

The HCW service currently comprises; Museums, County Records Office, Heritage Education, Learning & Community Engagement, County Arts, Field Archaeology and the museum collections centre. Physical public access is via Market Hall Museum, St John's House Museum and the County Records Office in Warwick, although digital access to services has become increasingly important and popular with customers.

The Council's One Organisational Plan (OOP) savings requirement for HCW is £478,000. During years 1 and 2 of the Council's OOP savings plan (2014/15 and 15/16), HCW have achieved savings of £217,000. This has been achieved through the following:

- 'Our Warwickshire' (OW) project - Receipt of external grant fund (HLF) is enabling the refurbishment and total refresh of Market Mall Museum (due to reopen early in 2017) and incorporating a new coffee shop and retail offer. It has also enabled development of the Our Warwickshire website as a platform to share County Museum, Record Office and community collections and stories about Warwickshire as well as exploring other commercial opportunities such as corporate events and supporters schemes.
- Removal of Heritage & Culture Service Manager post (now shared across Heritage and Environment Group)
- Reductions in HCW management team
- Reductions in County Arts staffing and cessation of funding awards to key arts clients
- A commercial review of Field Archaeology (now operating on full cost recovery basis)
- Reductions in County record office & Museum staffing of x2 FTE professional staff since March 2014.

The residual requirement for the current financial year and 2017/18 is therefore a further £261,000 of savings. This represents a very considerable challenge for HCW and will require a reconfiguration of public facing activity.

Financial Implications

As set out in the report

Report Author	Michelle Alexander
Head of Service	Phil Evans
Strategic Director	Monica Fogarty
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Jeff Clarke

Checklist

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or Exempt?	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

List of Reports considered - please include link to report

Link to published proposed decision report:

<https://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cm5/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/645/Meeting/3739/Committee/550/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

List of Background Papers - please include a contact for access to background papers

None

Members and officers consulted or informed – please include any comments

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Jeff Clarke
 All Strategic Directors
 Legal – Ian Marriott
 Finance – Liz Firmstone, Virginia Rennie
 Equality – Belinda Blake
 Democratic Services – Paul Williams

Communities OSC – party spokes:
 Councillors Johnson, Clark, Boad, Lea