

## **Proposed Decision to be taken by the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Improvement and IT on or after 21<sup>st</sup> December 2012**

**Disposal of Items from the Social History Collection at Warwickshire Museum Service in association with the museum stores move and sale of The Butts, Warwick.**

### **Recommendations**

That the Portfolio Holder approves the disposal of the items listed in Appendix A in accordance with the Museum's Acquisition and Disposal policy, the Museum Association Code of Ethics and the associated Disposal Toolkit.

### **1.0 Key issues**

- 1.1 Warwickshire Museum Service safeguards, manages and develops collections which illustrate Warwickshire's rich and diverse past. The collections were originally assembled by the Warwickshire Natural History and Archaeological Society which founded the Museum in 1836. The Society collected from all over the world, aiming to show the world to Warwickshire people. The Museum Service has been run by Warwickshire County Council since 1932 and its collections cover Natural History, Social History, Geology and Archaeology. Today, the service focuses on Warwickshire people and places and their stories.
- 1.2 "Museums meet their responsibility to future generations by ensuring that collections are well managed and sustainable. There is a strong presumption in favour of the retention of items within the public domain. Sometimes transfer within the public domain, or another form of disposal, can improve access to, or the use, care or context of, items or collections. Responsible, curatorially-motivated disposal takes place as part of a museum's long-term collections policy, in order to increase public benefit derived from museum collections".<sup>1</sup>
- 1.3 Curatorial staff at Warwickshire Museum Service undertake collections audits which seek to improve the care and management of the museum's collections. These audits periodically identify objects for potential disposal in accordance with the Museum Association's Code of Ethics and Warwickshire Museum Service's Acquisition and Disposal Policy.
- 1.4 Items may be identified for potential disposal for the following reasons:

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<sup>1</sup> Code of Ethics for Museums, Museums Association

- Duplication –the service holds other similar examples
- Provenance –the object has a weak or no Warwickshire connection or relevance
- Condition - the object is in poor condition or is too hazardous to have pragmatic display or interpretation potential
- Mis-identification – the objects have been the subject of specialist scrutiny and are no longer deemed to be artefacts

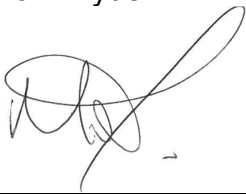
## 2.0 Proposal

- 2.1 Appendix A comprises a list of objects from the Social History collection which have been identified as priorities for potential disposal. The Museum Service is currently reviewing collections held at the Butts museum stores in line with the recent sale of the building and the requirement for us to relocate the stores to Montague Road by end March 2013. This report seeks approval for curatorial staff to take appropriate steps in accordance with the Museum Association Code of Ethics (Section 6) to dispose of these objects.

### Background Papers (Please list below, with electronic links where applicable)

Museum Association Code of Ethics -  
<http://www.museumsassociation.org/ethics/code-of-ethics>

Warwickshire Museum Service Acquisition and Disposal policy  
 Hard copy available upon request

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## Appendix A: proposed disposals

Number	Description	Reasons for Disposal
H6909	Bedsread	Duplication Poor condition – very discoloured Non-Warwickshire
34/1969	Bedsread	Poor condition
H6908	Bedsread	Duplication Non-Warwickshire
-	Small group of objects including pottery and worked bone, excavated from Glastonbury Iron Age Lake Village	Non-Warwickshire (arrangements already in place to return to Somerset County Museum)
79/1974/H	Toy horse on wheels	Poor condition
7/1975/G	Hay grab tines	Poor condition
H1470	Grindstone	Poor condition Duplication
218/99/1976	Work bench	Poor condition
99/1976	Grindstone	Poor condition Duplication
This item is being checked for any accession information	Cart	Poor condition
This object is being checked for any accession information	Bier	Poor condition Duplication
This object is being checked for any accession information	Winnowing machine	Poor condition Duplication