

Decision Record – 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

Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking decision

Councillor David Wright, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Improvement and IT

**Date of Decision:
(NOT BEFORE – 21st December 2012)**

2 JANUARY 2013

Decision taken

That I, as Portfolio Holder for Finance, Improvement and IT, 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.

Reasons for Decisions

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 Information/ factors considered in arriving at these decisions - (set out below and in the officer report):

Background:

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.

“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”.

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.

Items may be identified for potential disposal for the following reasons:

- 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

Financial Implications:

None listed.

Report Author:	Michelle Alexander
Head of Service:	Mark Ryder
Strategic Director:	David Carter
Portfolio Holder	Councillor David Wright Councillor Colin Hayfield

Checklist

Urgent matter: yes/no*

No

Confidential or Exempt (state category of exempt information)

No

Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework

No

List of Reports considered [please attach or forward a copy]

Report from author.

List of Background Papers [please include directorate contact names and numbers for access to background papers]

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

Any members and officers consulted or informed and any comments given.

Cllr David Wright (Portfolio Holder)
Cllr Izzi Seccombe (portfolio Holder)
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