

<b>Title of meeting:</b>	Culture, Leisure and Sport Decision Meeting
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	23 March 2012
<b>Subject:</b>	Loan of Oil Paintings by Benjamin Haughton
<b>Report by:</b>	Head of Cultural Services
<b>Wards affected:</b>	All
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Full Council decision:</b>	No

**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1** To consider a request by the Broadway Art Festival, Broadway to borrow the oil paintings “Girl tending a garden” and “Standard roses in a garden” by Benjamin Haughton for inclusion in an exhibition in 2012.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1** **That the oil paintings are lent to the Broadway Art Festival for inclusion in the exhibition “Country Gardens” to be held between 8 and 17 June 2012. The exhibition will be held at Haynes Fine Art Gallery in Broadway.**

**3. Background**

- 3.1** The Broadway Art Festival has been operating for a number of years, bringing art to a town without an art gallery or museum of its own. They have established a reputation for attracting loans from prestigious organisations even though they do not permanent collections or premises of their own.

The exhibition will be staged in a commercial gallery in the town, Haynes Fine Art Gallery. It is fully climate controlled and has a high level of security. It is run by the largest fine art dealership in Britain outside London.

Normally, a request from an organisation without museums accreditation would not be considered, but the gallery concerned has a high level of expertise, security and exhibition provision. They have also been vetted to accept works on loan from the Tate Britain, so will comply with stringent conditions.

The works have been rarely shown as Haughton is not a major artist and these are two of his very small works, so an opportunity to show them to a wider audience is a welcome one.

The exhibition will be curated by Dr Clare Willsdon of the University of Glasgow. She is a well-respected art historian and free-lance curator and was responsible for the 'Impressionist Gardens' exhibition at the National Gallery of Scotland in Edinburgh.

The loan will only be agreed if the organisers bear all costs associated with the loan including insurance both in transit and on-site.

#### **4. Reasons for recommendations**

- 4.1 The loan will raise awareness of Portsmouth's Museums and Records Service and its art collections.
- 4.2 The oil paintings will be made accessible to a wider audience.
- 4.3 The loan will contribute to research into the work of one of Britain's lesser known artists. It is possible that more will found out about our paintings than is currently known.

#### **5. Equality impact assessment (EIA)**

The oil paintings will be made accessible to a wider audience and a preliminary EIA is not required.

#### **6. Head of Legal, Licensing & Registrars' comments**

- 6.1 There is no statutory requirement for local authorities to provide this service. However, section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 gave local authorities a new discretionary power to 'promote or improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area'. The recommendations set out in this report support the social well-being of the area for the reasons detailed at paragraph 3 above. This is further supported by the general power of competence provided by section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.
- 6.2 Sections 12 and 14 of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 enable the Council to provide and maintain museums and galleries within its administrative area or elsewhere in England or Wales, and this further supports the recommendation set out in this report.
- 6.3 Under Part 2, Section 3, of the City Council's constitution the Portfolio holder for Culture, Leisure and Sport has the authority to approve the recommendations set out in this report.

#### **7. Head of Finance's comments**

All costs associated with the loan of these paintings to the Hayes Fine Art Gallery will be met by the organisers, there will be no cost to PCC.

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Signed by:

**Stephen Baily**  
**Head of Cultural Services**

**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

<b>Title of document</b>	<b>Location</b>
Email from Dr K Bloch	Outlook file, Collections Manager's in-box and loan file 'w' drive

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport on 23 March 2012.

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Signed by:

**Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport**