

<b>Title of meeting:</b>	Culture, Leisure and Sport Decision Meeting
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	23 March 2012
<b>Subject:</b>	Loan of Watercolour Painting by JMW Turner
<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 National Maritime Museum, London to borrow the watercolour painting “Gosport, the Entrance to Portsmouth Harbour” by JMW Turner for inclusion in two exhibitions in 2013 and 2014.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.2** That the watercolour is lent to the National Maritime Museum, London for inclusion in the exhibition “Turner and the Sea” to be held between November 2013 and April 2014.
- 2.3** That the watercolour is lent to the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts, USA as part of the touring exhibition from the National Maritime Museum “Turner and the Sea” to be held between June and September 2014.

**3. Background**

- 3.1** In 2013 the National Maritime Museum (NMM) in London will stage the first large-scale exhibition to examine JMW Turner’s lifelong pre-occupation with the sea. This exhibition is being developed in association with Tate Britain and will open in the NMM’s new exhibition space in the Sammy Ofer wing before touring to the Peabody Essex Museum in the USA.

The exhibition will contain about sixty oil paintings, approximately half by Turner and the same number of watercolours. It is already being described as a landmark exhibition and, to quote the Director of the NMM, “the most ambitious reappraisal of the subject in modern times.”

Our watercolour is described by the curator of the exhibition as “very important” to the theme of the exhibition, and as being “among the most complex and dynamic of Turner’s later watercolours” and it is for these reasons that they have requested the loan for both venues.

All costs associated with the loan will be covered by the National Maritime Museum and insurance both in transit and on-site will be covered by the Government Indemnity Scheme. Insurance at the Peabody Essex Museum will be their responsibility and full details will be available later on, but will be to the highest standard demanded by the NMM and other high profile lenders.

#### **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 watercolour will be made accessible to a wider audience.
- 4.3 The loan will contribute to research into the work of one of Britain’s most famous artists. It is possible that more will found out about our watercolour than is currently known.
- 4.4 There is an understanding about reciprocity about loans within the wider museums community. By contributing to exhibitions organised by national museums, we are then in a better position to be able to borrow from them in return.

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

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

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

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 4 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 1 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 this painting to the National Maritime Museum, (NMM), London and the subsequent loan to the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts, USA as part NMM's touring exhibition, will be met by the organisers. No costs will be incurred by PCC.

.....  
 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:

Title of document	Location
Letter fro Dr K. Fewster, Director, National Maritime Museum	CM19, Collections Manager's Office, City Museum

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.

.....  
 Signed by:  
**Cabinet Member for Culture Leisure and Sport**