

Title of meeting:	Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport
Date of meeting:	14 December 2012
Subject:	Findings of the study exploring transfer of Cumberland House to the 3 rd sector
Report by:	Head of City Development and Cultural Services
Wards affected:	ALL
Key decision:	No
Full Council decision:	No

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to present the findings of the study to explore potential options for the transfer of Cumberland House to the 3rd sector.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that:

2.1.1 It is noted that, none of the options save the council money and it is a common misconception that a transfer to trust will do so.

2.1.2 It is noted that, whatever option is chosen Cumberland House needs capital investment.

2.1.3 It is noted that, Cumberland House is unlikely to be viable as a standalone trust without maintaining revenue funding at present, in fact slightly uplifted, levels.

2.1.4 Officers pursue Option 2, as an interim measure, increasing the involvement of volunteers at Cumberland House in frontline roles, to free up paid staff to focus on events and exhibition programming and the development of the museum offer.

2.1.5 Officers further investigate Option 4, to explore the creation of a wider trust incorporating the attractions and facilities of the Canoe Lake Park. There is no budget for this work and the costs associated with the proposal have yet to be identified. A further report to update the Cabinet Member will be brought forward when more detailed information is available.

2.1.6 That Julia Holberry is thanked for her excellent report.

3. Background

- 3.1 The study to look at alternative governance models for the operation of Cumberland House was one of the recommendations of the Cumberland House Working Group. (A final report summarising the findings of the Working Group was circulated in May 2011). The Working Group also requested that an external specialist with relevant experience and expertise should be engaged to lead the process.
- 3.2 A project panel was convened to oversee the selection process and the project. The panel consisted of two representatives each from the Friends of Cumberland House and the Portsmouth Museums & Records Society and the council's Museums, Archives & Visitor Services Manager. Julia Holberry Associates (JHA) was appointed to undertake the study.

The work undertaken by JHA in response to the brief entailed:

- background research into Cumberland House and its strategic context
 - interviews with stakeholders held between April and July 2012 (over 20 in total)
 - an assessment of assets, including the building, collections and garden
 - an assessment of the governance options open to Cumberland House
 - an assessment of the delivery options
 - a financial assessment of the options
 - a staff and stakeholder workshop to report on findings
- 3.3 As a result of the work described above, JHA identified 5 potential options for the future operation of Cumberland House.

Option 1: Status quo

Option 2: Council governance with volunteers

Option 3: Cumberland House as a standalone trust

Option 4: Canoe Lake trust

Option 5: Broader museum, culture and/or leisure trust

4. Reasons for recommendations

- 4.1 The full report produced by JHA is attached as Appendix A. This describes in detail the review, consultation and assessment process undertaken and how JHA arrives at her preferred option/s. It includes a detailed summary.
- 4.2 The recommendations listed above are in accordance with the JHA report which recommends that we pursue Option 2 (Council governance with volunteers) in the short term (ie the next 1-3 years) and Option 5 (Canoe Lake Trust) in the medium term (3-5 years).

5. Equality impact assessment (EIA)

- 5.1 An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken at this stage. The JHA report comments that equality issues may well be better addressed by the options that increase the contribution of the community through voluntary activity (including serving as trustees).

6. City Solicitor's comments

- 6.1 There are no significant legal implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.
- 6.2 In conjunction with the recommended further investigation of the wider trust option, the Legal Services Team will advise upon and approve as appropriate the proposed governance arrangements/ legal structure of the trust.
- 6.3 Under Part 2, Section 3 of the City Council's Constitution (responsibilities of the Cabinet) and further in accordance with the Scheme of Delegations at Appendix A to the Executive Procedure Rules in Part 3 of the Constitution, the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport has authority to approve the recommendations set out in this report.

7. Head of Finance's comments

- 7.1 The financial information contained within this report has been produced in consultation with PCC officers.
- 7.2 The costs associated with the recommendations to increase the involvement of volunteers at Cumberland House will be met from existing budgets.
- 7.3 The costs that will be incurred to further investigate the development of a wider Canoe Lake Trust are not known at present. This work will require additional Resources which are yet to be confirmed.

.....
Signed by: **Stephen Baily**
Head of City Development & Cultural Services

Appendices:

Appendix A: Cumberland House: Options Appraisal for Transfer to the Third Sector, Julia Holberry Associates, November 2012

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
None	

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport on 14 December 2012.

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