

Agenda item:

Title of meeting: Culture, Leisure and Sport Decision Meeting

Subject: Loan of painting by George Vicat Cole

Date of meeting: 11 October 2013

Report by: Head of City Development and Cultural Services

Wards affected: All

1. Requested by:

Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport

2. Purpose

- 2.1** To note the loan of 'Near Epsom', a painting by George Vicat Cole to an exhibition in 2014.

3. Information Requested

3.1 Background to the exhibition

In 2014 Hampshire County Council and its partners Southampton City Council and Winchester City Council are staging an exhibition programme which will concentrate on different experiences of war to mark the commemoration of the outbreak of the First World War. One exhibition will be a fine art exhibition looking at the history of the Artists Rifles.

3.2 Exhibition venue

The exhibition will be held at Southampton Art Gallery from 4 April to 21 June 2014 and will then tour to two other venues, finally closing on 13 December 2014. The other venues have not been selected, not all of the works exhibited in Southampton will tour to the other venues.

3.3 Request

The council have been asked to lend the painting 'Near Epsom', painted in the 1870s by George Vicat Cole, initially to Southampton Art Gallery, possibly to two other venues in Hampshire.

3.4 Rationale

George Vicat Cole was born in Portsmouth in 1833. He and his father, the artist George Cole left Portsmouth for London in 1852. George Vicat Cole joined the Artists Rifles in 1861, shortly after its formation in response to scares about the possibility of French invasions. He was one of the first artists to join up in the initial years of the organisation.

His work has been requested as it is of particular interest since he was a Hampshire artist who became one of the most popular landscape painters of the later nineteenth century as well as being an early recruit to the Artists Rifles.

None of the partners in the exhibition have any paintings by George Vicat Cole, so if this early member of the Artists Rifles is to be represented in the exhibition, our painting is a key work.

3.5 Requirements from borrowers

The loan will only go ahead subject to satisfactory Facilities Reports being received from the recipient venues. The loan will only be to Accredited museums or galleries.

All costs, including insurance, transport and preparation of the work for exhibition will be borne by the borrowers.

3.6 Benefits

Lending to Southampton Art Gallery raises the profile of Portsmouth's art collection. Southampton Art Gallery has a national reputation for staging high quality exhibitions. The display of our painting there will demonstrate that Portsmouth has works that are of sufficient merit and status to be shown at this prestigious venue.

By being shown in this exhibition, the painting will reach a wider audience. This will help to spread the word about the riches of Portsmouth's art collection. If our work is included in the tour then even more people will be able to see it.

The exhibition will deliver educational benefits by helping more people learn about members of the Artists Rifles including the Portsmouth-born George Vicat Cole.

It is a standard condition of loan that the lender is acknowledged on any exhibition print produced by the borrower.

4. Head of Finance's comments

All costs associated with the loan of this painting to the Southampton Art Gallery and any subsequent loans will be met by the organisers. No costs will be incurred by PCC.

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Signed by:
Stephen Baily, Head of City Development and Cultural Services

Appendices: None

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 18-7-2013 Dr Janet Owen to Dr Jane Mee	Loans file, City Museum