

Agenda item:

Title of meeting:	Culture, Leisure and Sport Decision Meeting
Date of meeting:	21 March 2014
Subject:	Request for loan of Turner watercolour painting by the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum
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 To consider a request by the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum to borrow the watercolour painting “ Gosport, the Entrance to Portsmouth Harbour” by J.M.W. Turner for inclusion in an exhibition in the summer of 2015.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the watercolour is lent to the Salisbury and South Wiltshire for inclusion in the exhibition “Turner and Salisbury” to be held between 22 May and 27 September 2015.**

3. Background

- 3.1 In 2015 the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum will stage the first ever exhibition devoted to J.M.W. Turner’s drawings and paintings of Salisbury Cathedral, the city and its surroundings.
- 3.2 As well as presenting Turner's links with Salisbury, the exhibition will explore his work that recorded the central area of southern England including the Solent and the Isle of Wight.
- 3.3 For Turner, the importance of Portsmouth to Britain's maritime strength was a theme that he treated on several occasions, both in oil and watercolour. The Director of the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum states that our watercolour is especially interesting to their project "as it shows the setting in a much more relaxed way, with a boat of pleasure-seekers, reflecting the new ease in the years after the end of the Napoleonic wars".

- 3.4 All costs associated with the loan will be covered by the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum. It is expected that insurance both in transit and on-site will be covered by the Government Indemnity Scheme.

4. Reasons for recommendations

- 4.1 The loan will raise awareness of Portsmouth's Museums and Records Service and its art collections. It is a standard condition of loans to external venues that full acknowledgement is given to Portsmouth's ownership in any interpretation and publications.
- 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.
- 4.4 There is an understanding about reciprocity concerning loans within the wider museums community. By contributing to exhibitions organised by other museums, we are then in a better position to be able to borrow from them in return.
- 4.5 The Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum is an Accredited museum and its exhibition galleries meet the requirements of HM Government Indemnity.
- 4.6 A publication is planned which will illustrate and explore more fully the appealing images Turner created in our region, a copy of which will be given to our service.

5. Equality impact assessment (EIA)

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

6. Head of Legal comments

- 6.1 No specific legal comment other than to ensure adequate insurance in place for both in transit and on-site as well as copyright and intellectual property right in the art works are protected.

7. Head of Finance's comments

- 7.1 Portsmouth City Council will not incur any costs as a result of the recommendation in this report being approved. The Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum will meet the full costs associated with the loan of the painting.

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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
2 letters from Adrian Green, Director, Salisbury and South Wiltshire 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 21 March 2014.

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Signed by:
Councillor Lee Hunt
Cabinet Member for Culture Leisure and Sport