



Title of meeting: Cabinet Meeting

Date of meeting: 8 March

Subject: Museums Strategy Consultation

Report by: Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services

Wards affected: ALL

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose of report

To share the findings of the recent consultation to inform thinking around the Museums Strategy.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the number of people contributing their views and the findings of the consultation are noted.**
- 2.2 That the Museums Strategy 2022-2026 is approved without further change.**

3. Background

- 3.1 A Museums Strategy is one of the documents required for Accreditation, the national benchmark for museums in England. It will also underpin our application for National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) funding with Arts Council England (ACE).
- 3.2 The Museums Strategy was presented to the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development at the meeting of 16 November 2021 and approval given for public consultation.
- 3.2 Although the development of the Museums Strategy was informed by a Peer Challenge review, undertaken by Derby Museums, and two facilitated workshops with a small number of community stakeholders this is insufficient to meet council requirements or those of potential funders such as Arts Council England or the National Heritage Lottery Fund.
- 3.3 The consultation was undertaken by The Audience Agency (TAA) during January 2022. It comprised a short survey created by TAA and set up and distributed by via the council's website, and social media channels and on social media ads. 1,612 responses were completed. In addition, 15 interviews took



place with a range of stakeholders thought able to provide informed feedback on the needs and preferences of themselves and the communities they represent. Each interview lasted 40 minutes.

3.4 The main focus of the consultation was on relevance and inclusivity and participation - how people engage with the museums service now and how they might like to be involved in the future.

3.4 Details of the consultation, its findings and recommendations are shown at Appendix 1. The Museums Strategy is at Appendix 2.

4. **Reasons for recommendations**

4.1 The results of the consultation are wide-ranging and informative. The recommendations identified by TAA range from the importance of outreach work for communities in danger of exclusion to creating a new building in the vein of Plymouth's The Box. Officers will further review the findings and incorporate them into action plans going forward.

4.2 The alignment of the findings of the consultation with the aspirations expressed in the Museums Strategy is very encouraging. For example, the Museums Strategy expresses an aspiration to work in partnership with communities; the survey indicated that the most popular way people would like to be involved with Portsmouth Museums was by **deciding what should be on display and assisting with exhibitions** (47% of respondents), followed by **taking part in a forum or visitor consultation group** to inform future developments at the museums (46% of respondents).

4.3 In addition, although people largely feel welcomed by staff and volunteers, and most survey respondents felt Portsmouth Museums is relevant and relatable to, there is also a recognition that some communities are under-represented and sometimes invisible. This is something that the Museums Strategy aims to address.

4.4 Due to the alignment between the strategy and the views of respondents and stakeholders it is proposed that no further changes to the Museums Strategy are made at this stage and that the emphasis should now be on action planning, fundraising and implementation.

5. **Integrated impact assessment**

An IIA was completed to accompany the CLED CM report, 16 November 2021.

6. **Legal implications**

6.1 The Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 ("**PLMA 1964**") and the Local Government Act 1972 give powers to local authorities to provide museums.



- 6.2 Under section 12(1) of the PLMA 1964, a local authority may provide and maintain museums and art galleries within its administrative area or elsewhere in England and Wales and may do all such things as may be necessary or expedient for or in connection with the provision or maintenance thereof.
- 6.3 The Core Purpose, Vision and Strategic Objectives set out in the draft Strategy are considered consistent with the Council's statutory powers as set out above and with the Council's statutory duties in relation to equalities.

7. Director of Finance's comments

There are no financial implications directly resulting from this report. However, it should be noted that the final Museums Strategy should include any proposed costs and associated funding, either from within existing budgets, or identified alternative budget sources.

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 Signed by:
Stephen Baily
Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services

Appendices:

- Appendix 1, Portsmouth Museums Stakeholder and audience consultation.
- Appendix 2 Portsmouth Museums Strategy 2022-26.

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

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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 Signed by: