

<b>Title of meeting:</b>	Culture, Leisure and Economic Development Decision Meeting
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	10 February 2023
<b>Subject:</b>	Disposal of Union Jack Flag from Landing Ship Tank (LST) 157
<b>Report by:</b>	Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services
<b>Wards affected:</b>	All
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Full Council decision:</b>	No

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**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To confirm the disposal of a union jack flag that was previously flown on Landing Ship, Tank (LST) 157, so that it can be transferred to another museum.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 **To agree the disposal of the flag so that it can be transferred to the LST Ship Memorial, Evansville, Indiana, USA.**

**3. Background**

- 3.1 The donor is the adopted son of a now deceased veteran who acquired the flag while serving in the Royal Navy on board LST 157. The donor signed a Transfer of Title form so Portsmouth Museums has clear legal title to this item.
- 3.2 At the time of donating the flag to Portsmouth Museums, the donor firmly believed that his adopted father had taken part in D-Day as part of the crew on an LCT (Landing Craft, Tank). He then obtained from the Ministry of Defence a copy of his father's service records, which confirmed that the veteran in fact served on LST 157. The records also indicated that in the summer of 1944 he was still in training, and did not go overseas on Royal Navy service until 1945-1946, when he served on LST 157 in the Far East. Therefore the flag no longer fits Portsmouth Museums' collecting policy because it does not have a connection to either the Normandy Landings or to Portsmouth. However by the time we learned this, we had accessioned the flag into the museum collections,



and therefore we need to formally dispose of it in order to transfer it to another museum.

- 3.3 The donor confirmed (through his solicitor, due to poor health) that he understood that Portsmouth Museums wished to find an appropriate home for the flag in a suitable museum, and that he was happy for us to make enquiries to achieve this.
- 3.4 After checking with several UK museums including the National Museum of the Royal Navy and National Maritime Museum, who did not wish to acquire the flag or did not respond, we contacted the LST Ship Memorial ([lstmemorial.org](http://lstmemorial.org)) at Evansville, Indiana, USA, who have confirmed that they would like to acquire it. The LST Ship Memorial is a museum ship: a surviving LST (LST 325).
- 3.5 The flag is in fair condition, with slight fraying in places and some mould stains.
- 3.6 Valuation for insurance purposes: £500-£1,000. The Curator (Artefacts) at the National Museum of the Royal Navy has agreed this valuation is correct.
- 3.7 No grants were involved in the acquisition of this object.

#### **4. Reasons for recommendations**

- 4.1 The Museum Service's Acquisition & Disposal Policy states in part:  
"Only objects which satisfy the following criteria will be acquired...:
- a. Objects originating from the Portsmouth area
  - b. Objects produced, collected, or used by persons having a substantial Portsmouth connection.
  - c. Objects originating elsewhere, but which have a relevance to the Portsmouth area.
  - d. Objects relating to Operation Overlord and the Battle of Normandy.
  - ...
  - f. Objects will not be acquired when they fall within the collecting policies of the organisations listed in Section 9 or indeed any other museum or kindred institution that has a better claim.
- 4.2 The Policy for Disposals and De-accessions states, in part:
- "Items... will be considered for disposal under these general criteria:
  - Where they do not meet the criteria of the Collections Development Policy..."
- 4.3 The LST Ship Memorial, to which it is proposed that the flag be transferred, is a surviving LST (LST 325). Both LST 325 and LST 157 (the LST which the flag in



question flew on) were built during the Second World War at Evansville Shipyard, very close to where the LST Ship Memorial is now located. So the flag has a strong link to LST 325 and to Evansville, and will help tell the story in

an American museum of how US-built ships were operated by the British during that conflict.

4.4 The donor has confirmed (again, through his solicitor) that he is happy for Portsmouth Museums to dispose of the flag and transfer it to the LST Ship Memorial.

4.5 The Museum Service's collections include a significant number of other flags which did fly on known landing craft or ships that took part in the Normandy Landings.

**5. Integrated impact assessment**

5.1 An IIA has not been completed as we are implementing the collections development policy (which was subject to an EIA at the time of approval by the Cabinet Member).

**6. Legal implications**

6.1 The proposed disposal is in accordance with the Council's Collections Development Policy and accordingly no legal implications arise.

**7. Director of Finance's comments**

7.1 Whilst there are not expected to be, any costs incurred with the flag disposal and the transfer will be met by existing budgets.

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Signed by:

**Stephen Baily**  
**Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory 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

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

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Signed by:  
**Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development**