



Joint Strategic Committee  
1 February 2018  
Agenda Item 8

## ADUR & WORTHING COUNCILS

Key Decision [~~Yes~~/No]

Ward(s) Affected: All

### **Costume Research Centre - Museum Proposal**

#### **Report by the Director for the Economy**

#### **Executive Summary**

##### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1. To kick start the museum development by completing works on the Costume Research Centre at the Museum allowing the nationally significant collection to be moved to the new location on the ground floor, making it accessible to TV and film companies, fashion houses, historic researchers, students of costume and fashion. Enabling the development of a new income stream for the Museum.
- 1.2. The establishment of this key element of the Museum development will prove the commitment to the larger project and increase the success of external funding bids to trusts.
- 1.3. These works will free up the current costume store which will become the corporate / education space. This is one of the first external funding bids to the Clore Foundation and if successful works can begin summer 2018

##### **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Joint Strategic Committee:

- 2.1. Release £50,000 from the Leisure Lottery and other Partnerships Reserve to enable the Costume Research Centre to be completed in the next six months and amend the capital programme accordingly.
- 2.2. Note that this will establish a new element of work for the museum giving the team the ability to respond positively to the many requests for access to the collection creating unique opportunities for students and a new income stream from the commercial bookings.
- 2.3. Note that having the space refurbished prior to the main building works will give a space for talks, workshops and consultation when the majority of the building is potentially closed between September 2019 - July 2020.

### **3. Context**

- 3.1 The Costume Research Centre would be the first stage of the Museum Development Plan designed by Allies & Morrison.
- 3.2 Using the ring fenced reserve to establish this first step proves the Council's commitment to the project and will increase the success rate of the funding bids to several Trusts including Wolfson Foundation and the Clore Foundation.
- 3.3 The main funder for the full project is the Heritage Lottery Fund but the application cannot be submitted until May 2018 (HLF will not fund two large bids in the same area in one year and this year has the Highdowns Garden bid). This initial work developing the Costume Research Centre strengthens the HLF bid.
- 3.4 The ring fenced Leisure Lottery and other Partnerships Reserve can only be used for leisure projects or as match funds to external funding bids. There is currently a balance of £77,000 on this reserve
- 3.5 The Museum has currently committed £77,000 of the balance on the Museum Reserve as match funding for the proposed HLF bid. Therefore this reserve cannot be used for the Costume Research Centre.

#### **4. Issues for consideration**

- 4.1 The works will include the strip out of the current outdated costume display housed in the modern extension at the rear of the building. This space will be made good with plastering and refurbishment of the beautiful parquet floors. Bespoke floor to ceiling shelving will be installed with library ladders allowing full access. WiFi access, cutting tables, a photographic area and a 3D printer will all be installed to support the commercial use of the space.
- 4.2 This project will be managed by the Culture General Manager who has experience of capital projects and specifically Museum Refurbishment. The Museum manager will lead on the collection management. Planning have already been consulted and both planning and technical services would be fully informed of all plans and then each step of the project management.

#### **5. Engagement and Communication**

- 5.1 Consultation has been completed with the museum visitors/ mailing list members and the Friends of Worthing Museum and we have received full support for the project.
- 5.2 The project is supported by MET Northbrook and Brighton University.
- 5.3 The project has been discussed in detail with Heritage Lottery Fund and the Arts Council.
- 5.4 The establishment of this space with its own external door will enable the museum to maintain a low level of service and ongoing consultation during the major works when the majority of the building will be closed for ten months.

#### **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 The proposed capital project to improve the costume display will be funded from the Leisure Lottery and other Partnerships reserve specifically set aside for this type of purpose. It is expected that the project will cost £50,000.

## **7. Legal Implications**

- 7.1 Under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to do anything that is calculated to facilitate, or which is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of their functions.
- 7.2 Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 1999 (LGA 1999) contains a general duty on a best value authority to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- 7.3 s1 of the Localism Act 2011 empowers the Council to do anything an individual can do apart from that which is specifically prohibited by pre-existing legislation
- 7.4 Section 1 of The Local Government (Contracts) Act 1997 provides that every statutory provision conferring or imposing a function on a local authority confers the powers on the local authority to enter into a contract with another person for the provision or making available of assets or services, or both (whether or not together with goods) for the purposes of, or in connection with, the discharge of the function by the local authority.
- 7.5 Section 93 of The Local Government Act 2003 provides that there is a general power to charge for any discretionary service such as leisure and cultural services.
- 7.6 The Council should procure for the anticipated works in accordance with its Contract Standing Orders and comply with any funding terms and conditions set by the Heritage Lottery Fund in spending the grant funding.

**Background Papers**

Worthing Museum & Art Gallery - Masterplan Strategy - Allies & Morrison

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B28BNPhtmYBdOVp3TINacWZYN1U>

**Officer Contact Details:-**

Gerry Connolly

Museum Manager / Senior Curator

Telephone 07882 092927

[gerry.connolly@adur-worthing.gov.uk](mailto:gerry.connolly@adur-worthing.gov.uk)

## **Sustainability & Risk Assessment**

### **1. Economic**

- This project is the first step of a wider WMA refurbishment project (Let the Light In). The project will have a wider impact on the town, creating a further 20 jobs and safeguarding 15 existing posts. It is anticipated that a further 60k visitors will use the service in the first 3 years, boosting the local economy by a further £0.5m.

### **2. Social**

#### **2.1 Social Value**

- The project will have a big impact on local groups such as Superstar Arts, Creative Waves and local U3A's while expanding our highly successful education offer (CoastED). The increase in space will allow us to accommodate a full class of pupils for school visits including Palatine school, MET and University of Brighton. This vibrant new service will encourage our local residents, visitors and wider communities to connect with the WMA giving them a sense of place.

#### **2.2 Equality Issues**

- By removing the buildings social and physical barriers this project allows greater access to WMA and its collections to regions increasingly diverse community.

#### **2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)**

- Little or no impact.

#### **2.4 Human Rights Issues**

- We do not believe that this proposal will impinge on anyone's human rights.

### **3. Environmental**

- Rationalising the collection and the increase in natural light alongside new LED lighting will help reduce the buildings environmental impact.

### **4. Governance**

- The refurbishment of WMA will enhance the towns cultural assets.
- We believe the Councils' reputation and relationship with its partners and communities will be strengthened by this project.
- There is a minimum risk to the collections housed in the museum.
- The health and safety element of the refurbishment will be monitored closely by the internal project management team in partnership with over all project managers Gardiner & Theobald, who are leaders in the arts, heritage and culture sector.