

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE**ARTS SERVICE – CERAMICS PARTNERSHIP UPDATE****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report provides an update on the formal partnership agreement agreed with the Harley Foundation Charitable Trust to be custodians of the ceramics collection on behalf of the County Council, which was approved at the Culture Committee meeting on 9 June 2015, and to seek approval for the future management of the collection.

Information and advice

2. The County Council is the custodian of a collection of studio pottery which has been collected by the County Council over the past 16 years. To ensure the collection is curated properly and made accessible for artists and the public to view, it was agreed that an appropriate partnership be established with the Harley Foundation Charitable Trust to be custodians of the collection and to facilitate greater public viewing.
3. In order not to lose this specialist provision in Nottinghamshire, the option agreed by Culture Committee at its meeting 9 June 2015 was to move the ceramics learning programme activity and surplus equipment to the Harley Gallery, which is part of the Harley Foundation Charitable Trust, based at the Welbeck Estate near Worksop.
4. Since the agreement and the cessation of arts activity at Rufford Country Park in 2015 the ceramics collection was moved to Welbeck Abbey craft studios, in addition to the donation of two kilns and workshop equipment. A successful ceramics learning programme has been established, alongside the development of a new workshop and ceramics collection display as outlined in the previous report.
5. Considerable work to curate and list the ceramics collection has been undertaken by the Harley Foundation. One third of the collection is now on display in the new ceramic studios. Ongoing work is being undertaken to ensure provenance of the collection and work with depositors to ensure appropriate actions are taken in order to manage the collection properly.
6. In order to meet the aspirations of the original agreement to ensure the widest access to the collection is developed, colleagues at the Harley Foundation are liaising within the museum and the ceramics sectors to achieve best management of the collection for future generations. This will include deposit/loan of specific items with specialist collections where appropriate and in some circumstances returning items to depositors.

7. Ownership or donation recognition remains with Nottinghamshire County Council where appropriate.
8. Once the whole collection is fully curated any surplus items identified with County Council permission will be sold with any income being retained by the Foundation to further develop their ceramics outreach and educational programme.

Other Options Considered

9. The option for the County Council to manage the collection itself was considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. The recommendations enable the Council to maintain and support ongoing arts related activity whilst making required budget savings.
11. The existing partner is uniquely placed geographically and with the ceramics arts sector to enable sustainable legacy arrangements to be established within the required time frame.

Statutory and Policy Implications

12. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

13. There are no financial implications for the Authority arising from this report because these services are included in the Inspire contract.

Public Sector Equality Duty Implications

14. An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken for the options for change Arts service and is available as a background paper.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) approval is given for the Harley Foundation Charitable Trust, as custodians of the ceramics collection on behalf of the County Council, to undertake professional management of the collection including the listing, display, loan, deposit and disposal of the collection as appropriate.
- 2) any income generated through the sale of surplus items be retained by the Foundation to further develop their ceramics outreach and educational programmes.

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Constitutional Comments (LM 13/12/16)

15. The recommendations in the report fall within the Terms of Reference of the Culture Committee.

Financial Comments (TMR 15/12/16)

16. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 13 of the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Annual budget report 2015/16 - options for change – report to Full Council on 26 February 2015

Arts Services – Ceramics Partnership development – report to Culture Committee on 9 June 2015

Equality Impact Assessment

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0921