

3 October 2019**Agenda Item:5****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR,
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.

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 ceramic learning programme has been established, alongside the development of a new workshop and rotating ceramics display from the collection has been established.
5. Considerable work to sort the collection, which was in a very poor state, has been undertaken since arriving at Wellbeck, including the sale of surplus items in March 2018. Income received, following costs, was invested into the outreach and learning programme provided by the Harley Foundation as agreed with the County Council.
6. In addition to the transfer of the ceramics programme and collection to Wellbeck, the International Ceramics Fair, Earth and Fire formerly based at Rufford Country Park and funded by the County Council has successfully re located to Wellbeck since 2017.

7. Since the last update report the learning programme has developed, including regular engagement with MIND, Parkinsons UK, Mysight and Cardiac Support group with 4,800 service users taking part. In addition, engagement with young people and families has continued to increase since the studio was established, amounting to over 2,000 visitors in 2018.
8. Further work has been undertaken on sorting the items in the collection with aim of retaining items that demonstrate a range of ceramic techniques relevant to support the learning programme and can be displayed on rotation in the workshop.
9. A further number of items within the collection that are no longer required or are surplus have been identified by conservation staff and therefore will be offered for sale, with any surplus income been used to re-invest into the gallery learning programme and other related initiatives in agreement with the County Council.
10. Items within the collection that are not required within the studio display and have uncertain provenance will not be sold and will be retained by the County Council in partnership with Inspire.
11. Several items have been identified by the gallery staff as surplus to the collection (around 100) which have been collectively valued between £16,000 and £24,000.
12. Any surplus income following costs incurred by the foundation would be allocated on a 50/50 split between the Harley Foundation, to continue providing its learning programme on the Council's behalf, and the County Council.

Other Options Considered

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

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

14. The recommendations enable the Council to maintain the partnership with Harley Foundation Charitable Trust and maintain its custodianship of the ceramics collection.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment 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

16. The County Council will incur no costs and will receive 50% of any income.

Public Sector Equality Duty Implications

17. None.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) approval be given for the Harley Foundation Charitable Trust, as custodians of the ceramics collection on behalf of the County Council, to continue to undertake management of the collection including the listing, display, loan, deposit and disposal of the collection as appropriate.
- 2) half of 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 (EP – 27/08/2019)

15. The recommendations fall within the remit of the Communities and Place Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (SES - 27/08/2019)

16. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 16 of the report. NCC will receive 50% of any income received from the sale of surplus items that have been valued in total between £16,000 and £24,000.

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.