

RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

Tuesday, 29 October 2024

Decision No: (CAB 24/25 45878)

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET
PORTFOLIO AREA:	Leader of the Council
SUBJECT:	Collections Development Policy 2024-2029
AUTHOR:	Carolyn Abel

THE DECISION

- (i) To approve the Museums and Archives Collection Development Policy 2024–2029 (see Appendix 1) within the Culture & Tourism Division, as the collections development and acquisition and disposals policy for artefacts and material held in trust for the public by Southampton City Council (SCC).
- (ii) To approve delegated authority to the Head of Service to revise the policy if required, following consultation with the Cabinet Member.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

A Council approved Collections Development Policy is an essential requirement of ACE's Accreditation Scheme for Museums. A separate Accreditation scheme governing archives is administered by The National Archives. Without Accreditation, Council eligibility for funding from ACE, National Lottery Heritage Fund and other lottery, trust and foundation grant giving sources would be significantly restricted.

The CDP will guide the work of the Culture & Tourism team where it is required to rationalise current holdings or add new material to its collections that reflect the identity of a modern, diverse, inclusive city. Culture & Tourism provides public access to these important learning resources, using them to engage and inspire residents and visitors to the city through exhibitions, events, learning programmes and national and international loans.

The Policy provides a robust framework in any scenario in which collections may need to be rationalised, managed and relocated to alternative premises arising from considerations around assets and potential regeneration in the city. The approach to Asset Development and Disposal Programme (ADDP) was set out in the Cabinet and Council Report in March 2024. The CDP also provides assurance to Members and the public that national standards are employed.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The alternative options considered were to retain the existing approved Council Collections Development Policy 2018-2023 or to have no policy at all. These options were rejected because the current policy has expired and:

- (i) An up-to-date policy is required to secure Accreditation status and to reflect our public offer and engagement programmes.
- (ii) In anticipation of any potential relocation of collections to more suitable facilities, then a robust policy is required to adhere to national standards and guidelines.
- (iii) Accreditation and the CDP unlocks access to external funding streams as part of minimum standards and provides reassurance to residents that we are caring for collections within the resources available.

OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION

None

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE RECORD

We certify that the decision this document records was made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 and is a true and accurate record of that decision.

Date: 29 October 2024

Decision Maker:
The Cabinet

Proper Officer:
Claire Heather

SCRUTINY

Note: This decision will come in to force at the expiry of 5 working days from the date of publication subject to any review under the Council's Scrutiny "Call-In" provisions.

Call-In Period expires on
Date of Call-in <i>(if applicable) (this suspends implementation)</i>
Call-in Procedure completed <i>(if applicable)</i>
Call-in heard by <i>(if applicable)</i>
Results of Call-in <i>(if applicable)</i>