

MUSEUMS BEST VALUE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Report of the Director of Development and Cultural Services

SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report outlines progress with the actions resulting from the Museums service Best Value Review, approved by the Council's Executive and full Council in February.
- 1.2 Members' attention is drawn specifically to the last page of the Appendix, concerning the establishment of new regional structures for English museums, and our application to be part of a consortium, or 'hub' of leading museums services in the East Midlands. The outcome of our application is not known at the time of writing this report, but it may be possible to give Members a verbal report at Cabinet on 9 July.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Members note progress with the actions contained in the Museum's Best Value Improvement Plan.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3. The report is intended to give Members an indication of progress with improvements to the Museums service.

MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

- 4.1 The Museums' Best Value Review and Improvement Plan, was approved by the Executive, Overview and Scrutiny Commission, and full Council between December 2001 and February 2002. It included twenty-three actions for improving the Museums service over the five years 2002-2007. Progress with these actions is detailed in the Appendix.
- 4.2 While this is still a very early stage to report on progress, Members will see that two actions have been completed, nine are currently in hand, and two depended on inclusion on the Council's list of PSA's but were unsuccessful in this respect.
- 4.3 The completed actions involved a review of the museum shop operation, and participation in Liberation Day 3, (older peoples' consultation). Actions in hand include strategies for museum marketing, education and outreach, and buildings: NVQ training for front-line staff: development of more guided tours: partnership projects with other services: a Lottery bid to refurbish the Museum's Military Gallery: a heritage trail: electronic access: and investigating the business case for café areas in museums.
- 4.4 The two schemes which depended on successful PSA bids were: re-opening the Wardwick staircase between the Central Library and Museum: and enhancing the museums exhibition programme. This will be re-visited if and when other funding sources open up.
- 4.5 By far the most significant action is the Museum's application to be a partner in the new regional structure, or 'hub', following the publication last October of the report 'Renaissance in the Regions – a new vision for England's Museums'. If this application is successful, it could bring major government investment in the service, aimed at increasing visitor numbers: widening across all sectors of the community: improving collections management and use of objects: increasing education and outreach programmes: and helping museums play a bigger role in tourism and regeneration programmes.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5. None directly arising from this report. The financial implications of the actions and the funding sources, are detailed individually in the appendix.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6. None directly arising from this report.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7. None directly arising from this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

8. None directly arising from this report.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9. None directly arising from this report.