

Museum Reserve Collections

SUMMARY

- 1.1 In accordance with the procedure for the active management of museum reserve collections, that was agreed by Cabinet on 22 November 2011, this report seeks approval to dispose by sale of selected items that are no longer required by Derby's museums.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To approve the disposal by sale of the items listed in Appendix 2, in accordance with the Council's support for active management of museum reserve collections.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The items recommended for disposal are judged not to be of sufficient museum quality to justify their continued retention. Their disposal will help relieve pressure on reserve storage accommodation

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 On 22 November 2011 Cabinet agreed that Derby Museums adopt a new procedure to actively manage its reserve collections. Central to the active management procedure is a report to Cabinet approximately every three months seeking approval for the disposal by sale of selected items from the Museums' reserve collections. This is in line with the recommendations of the Museums Association, of which Derby Museums is an institutional member.
- 4.2 This report contains, at Appendix 2, the first such list of items recommended for disposal by sale. The list explains why each item is being recommended for disposal and outlines attempts that have already been made to offer them to other museums and, where appropriate, to trace the original donor.
- 4.3 As well as recommending further items for disposal the next report to Cabinet will record the income generated by the sale of the items listed at Appendix 2.
- 4.4 In accordance with the ethics code of the Museums Association, Cabinet agreed on 22 November 2011 that any income generated by the sale of the items disposed of

through this process will be retained by the Museum Service “solely and directly for the benefit of the museum’s collections”. It is anticipated that the income generated by the sale of the items listed will be minimal.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 All the items listed have been offered, without success, to other museums. Where possible we have also attempted – unsuccessfully – to trace the original donor with a view to offering to return the item.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Legal officer | Stuart Leslie |
| Financial officer | Michael Kirk |
| Human Resources officer | None required |
| Service Director(s) | Claire Davenport |
| Others | |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| For more information contact: | David Potton 01332 641719 david.potton@derby.gov.uk |
| Background papers: | None |
| List of appendices: | Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Accessioned objects offered for disposal (1) List |

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 Any costs associated with disposals can be achieved within existing budgets.
- 1.2 It is not anticipated that these proposals will realise more than a minimum of income, none of which will be available for general use by Derby City Council. All funds raised by sale can only be used 'solely and directly for the benefit of the museum's collections' (Ethics Code of the Museums Association).
- 1.3 Any write off of assets will be authorised within the Directorate in accordance with Financial Procedure Rule E8.32, which states that Chief Officers can approve the write off of redundant stock and equipment up to £10,000 if the assets are recorded as an asset within the Council's accounts. It is not anticipated that write offs above £10,000 will occur which need the approval of Council Cabinet.

Legal

- 2.1 Ownership of the collections is legally vested in Derby City Council. The Council must be able to show beyond reasonable doubt that it has legal title to objects which are candidates for dispersal or sale.

Personnel

- 3.1 These proposals will result in a change of emphasis for staff working with museum collections, but have no implications for extra staffing requirements.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 None

Health and Safety

- 5.1 None

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 None

Asset Management

7.1 None

Risk Management

8.1 None

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

9.1 These proposals will help Derby's museums promote an active cultural life, and provide good quality services that meet local needs.

List of Accessioned objects offered for disposal

| Disposal no. | Accn. no. | Object | Reason for disposal | Advert in Museums Journal | Response to advert in Museums Journal/offers | Original acquisition/ donor details |
|-------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------|--|--|
| D 86 | 1975-170 | Cochrane boiler. | Unwanted: has asbestos and is in poor condition. Unlikely to be used without major cost | Oct 2008 | 1 response, tentative. This is from a private individual – disposal to him would be in accordance with step 6 of the Museum Association guidance | Given by International Combustion Ltd – company no longer exists |
| D175 - D184 | H435; H441: H439; H420; H442; H418; H434; H 429 - 432 | Replica weapons and wooden gladii | Unwanted by Learning and Access as curriculum requirements have changed, or for main collection as they do not fit with our collecting strategy | 16.2.2010 | One response to advert but the objects were not suitable. | Purchased for Education many years ago |
| D235 | (1970-138/36) probably | “Taywil Dolly Washer” mangle | No provenance, not locally manufactured, other better condition examples | 14.10. 2011 | No response to advert | Donor not in phone book |

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|--------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|---|
| | | | in collection | | | |
| D261 | 1983-847/?3 | Glass footed dish | Not likely to be used as it is not locally manufactured and does not fit with our collecting strategy. We have other more relevant domestic table ware | 21.3.2011 | No response to advert | Donor no longer in Derby phone book |
| D262 | 1970-563/88 | Glass dish | As D261 above | 21.3.2011 | No response to advert | |
| D263 | 1982-522/6 | Blue glass liner for dish | As D261 above | 21.3.2011 | No response to advert | Donor no longer in Derby phone book |
| D265 | 1980-663 | Small blue glass vase | As D261 above | 21.3.2011 | No response to advert | Given by ex member of staff. No address on record |
| D266 | 1964-653/24 | Figure of Falstaff | As D261 above, and damaged beyond value to repair | 21.3.2011 | No response to advert | Donor no longer in Derby phone book |
| D267 | 1984-35/85 | 4 plates and 6 saucers | As D261 above, and in poor condition | 21.3.2011 | No response to advert | Purchase. Donor no longer in Derby phone book |
| D268 | 1983-650 1985-147/7 | 2 spoons | Not likely to be used as they are not locally | 21.3.2011 | No response to advert | Donor no longer in Derby phone book |

| Disposal no. | Accn. no. | Object | Reason for disposal | Advert in Museums Journal | Response to advert in Museums Journal/offers | Original acquisition/ donor details |
|--------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|--|
| | | | manufactured and do not fit with our collecting strategy. We have other more relevant domestic table ware | | | |
| D271 | 1981-320/134 | Wooden candlestick | No provenance, burnt and incomplete | 21.3.2011 | No response to advert | No donor details on MODES (he Museum Objects Database) |
| D287 | 1987-487 | Soft toy panda | No provenance, not locally manufactured, and in poor condition | 28.6.2011 | No response to advert | Purchased for Education and now no longer wanted |
| D295 | 1982-443 | Jelly mould | Not likely to be used as it is not locally manufactured and does not fit with our collecting strategy. We have other more relevant domestic kitchen ware. Poor condition, crazed and stained | 28.6.2011 | No response to advert | Purchased from Friends Antique fair for an event. |
| D296 | 1981-159 un-numbered parts of this | Group of saltglaze domestic | All damaged or incomplete – better examples in our | 28.6.2011 | No response to advert | Donor no longer in Derby phone book |

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|---------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---|---|
| | acc.n number | items | collection | | | |
| D297 | 1981-264/58 | Salt glaze souse pot | Does not fit with our collecting strategy. Handle missing, no lid | 28.6.2011 | No response to advert | Same donor as above, no longer in phone book |
| D300 | DL 427 | Iron saucepan | No provenance, not locally manufactured, and in poor condition (rusty). Better examples in collection | 28.6.2011 | No response to advert | Found in store – no donor information on record |
| D305 | DL 142 | Hook, probably for hanging lamp | No provenance, in poor condition and beyond value to repair | 28.6.2011 | No response to advert | Found in store – no donor information on record |
| D306 | DL 5 | Glass light shade | Damaged and we do have others of better quality in collection | 28.6.2011 | No response to advert | Found in store – no donor information on record |
| D308 | 1983-689 | Yardley box | Donated for use in Education. Unwanted by Learning and Access as curriculum requirements have changed, or for | 28.6.2011 | No response to advert | |

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|---------------------|------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|---|--|
| | | | main collection as it does not fit with our collecting strategy | | | |
| D309 | 1988-62/44 | Jewellery box | No provenance, not locally manufactured, and in very poor condition. Better examples in collection Very poor condition; not displayable | 28.6.2011 | No response to advert | Part of a collection of personal and household items, many coming from Bracken Farm, Alvaston, home of donor's mother. This item however is in such bad condition it is unlikely ever to be used. Donor no longer in phone book. |
| | 1992-231 | Model of Advanced Passenger Train trailer second carriage | This section of the model is impracticably large. The sections of the model which remain in the museum collection present a coherent story, and there is another smaller example in the collection | Oct 2011 | No response to advert | 7 ft long section of large (35 ft long) promotional model donated by British Railways – organisation no longer exists. This item is being offered without its articulated bogies, as these are shared with the sections being retained by the museum. |