

5TH APRIL 2017

Executive Board Member:	Portfolio:
Cllr. Meryl Gravell	Regeneration & Leisure

CARMARTHEN TOWN MUSEUM

Purpose:

To consider options for the future of Carmarthen Town Museum in light of the Museum's Accreditation scheme.

Recommendations / key decisions required:

When Carmarthen Town Museum failed its 2016 VAQAS assessment and the report indicated major shortcomings with the establishment, it also highlighted other concerns over its appropriateness as an Accredited Museum and its current location and operation.

The recommended solution to the future of Carmarthen Town Museum would be to :

- Remove Carmarthen Town Museum from the Museum Accreditation scheme and integrate relevant collections within the new archive/library development.

Alternative options are also considered in the body of this report.

Reasons:

Carmarthenshire Museum Service is required to complete a Museum Accreditation return by June 2017. A decision relating to Carmarthen Town Museum will impact on the Accreditation application.

Directorate: Communities		Tel No & E-mail Address
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Report Author:	Museums Development	01267 228696
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Declaration of Personal Interest (if any):None

Dispensation Granted to Make Decision (if any):N/A

DECISION MADE:

Signed:

DATE: _____

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

The following section will be completed by the Democratic Services Officer in attendance at the meeting

Recommendation of Officer adopted	YES / NO
Recommendation of the Officer was adopted subject to the amendment(s) and reason(s) specified:	
Reason(s) why the Officer's recommendation was not adopted:	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER MEETING FOR REGENERATION & LEISURE
5TH APRIL 2017

CARMARTHEN TOWN MUSEUM

Background

This report considers options for Carmarthen Town Museum, which has a number of infrastructural and operational challenges. Its location within Carmarthen Library function room means it is closed when the room is in use. It is used to store stacks of materials and is inaccessible and unsafe. The museum has been temporarily closed since November 2016 due to concerns over public safety. In 2016 it failed the Visit Wales VAQAS assessment due to inaccessibility, poor signage, being used as a store, and inadequate size.

Carmarthenshire Museums will reapply for Museum Accreditation for each of its sites by June 2017. Carmarthen Town Museum has many fundamental shortcomings. Among these are whether it is in fact a 'museum', when it is only a small display without staff, resources, no collection of its own, and no public engagement. It is unlikely to achieve Accreditation.

Consideration is required to agree an appropriate and sustainable future for the display of objects currently described as 'Carmarthen Town Museum'.

Options

Option 1: remove Carmarthen Town Museum from the Museum Accreditation scheme and integrate relevant collections within the new archive/library development.

- Achievable and collections are more accessible;
- Improves public image of museums, archives, libraries.

Option 2: remove Carmarthen Town Museum from the Museum Accreditation scheme and place collections into storage until a future use is agreed.

- Museums stores already over-full.
- No improvement to public access.

Option 3: maintain the status quo and apply for Museum Accreditation.

- Insufficient resources to develop the museum product to achieve Accreditation.
- Poor quality product reflects poorly on the service.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: **Ian Jones**

Head of Leisure

Policy and Crime & Disorder NONE	Legal NONE	Finance YES	ICT NONE	Risk Management Issues YES	Organisational Development NONE	Physical Assets NONE
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3.Finance

Option 1

This option can be approached as either a low or high spec redisplay, subject to the requirements of the archive/library development design brief.

Dismantle existing display	In-house team / PHS	£0
Redisplay and graphics high specification option	New display case	£3,000 - £5,000
	Digital interpretation	£1,500
Redisplay and graphics low specification option	Re-use old cases	£0
	Printed interpretation	In-house

Redisplay costs may be considered eligible as part of the wider capital development scheme.

Option 2

Due to a number of other pressing needs on museum storage, including the loss of the furniture store at Carmarthenshire County Museum to the Tywi Gateway Trust and the potential loss of stores at Parc Howard to a commercial tenant, the only immediate option is commercial storage.

Dismantle and pack existing display	In-house team / PHS	£0
Transportation	In-house team	In-house
Hire of secure storage unit	External contract	t.b.c.

Option 3

This option would realistically require major capital and ongoing revenue investment in order to establish a museum product that meets minimum Accreditation and VAQAS standards.

5. Risk Management Issues

The risks presented by the current situation relate to museum artefacts being kept in conditions where they cannot be monitored or managed because they are inaccessible and obscured.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Ian Jones

Head of Leisure

1. Scrutiny Committee N/a

2. Local Member(s) Cllr. Alun Lenny and Cllr. Jeff Thomas have been consulted and support the recommended option.

3. Community / Town Council Distributed to Carmarthen Town Council for consultation. Response due by 4th April so a narrative update on the response will be given.

4. Relevant Partners Library management are supportive of the proposal

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations The Museums, Archives & Libraries division of Welsh Government (MALD) have been engaged and support the recommended option.

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THERE ARE NONE