



CABINET

19TH OCTOBER 2017

AGENDA ITEM (9)

ACCREDITATION STANDARD - MUSEUM SERVICE POLICIES

Accountable Member	Councillor SG Hirst Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Leisure
Accountable Officer	Diana Shelton Head of Leisure & Communities 01993 861551 diana.shelton@westoxon.gov.uk

Purpose of Report	To consider the revised Collections Development Policy, Documentation Policy, and Care and Conservation Policy that have been updated in line with the new Accreditation Standard.
Recommendation(s)	That the revised policies be approved.
Reason(s) for Recommendation(s)	To enable the Museum Service to attain/retain the Accreditation Standard.

Ward(s) Affected	All
Key Decision	No
Recommendation to Council	No

Financial Implications	Having accredited status opens up new income streams for the Museum Service by way of external grants for projects.
Legal and Human Rights Implications	None
Environmental and Sustainability Implications	None
Human Resource Implications	None
Key Risks	None
Equalities Impact Assessment	None required

Related Decisions	None
Background Documents	None
Appendices	Appendix A - Collections Development Policy Appendix B - Documentation Policy Appendix C - Care and Conservation Policy

Performance Management Follow Up	Implement Cabinet decision(s)
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Options for Joint Working	None
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<p>Background Information</p> <p>1. <u>Introduction</u></p> <p>The Accreditation Scheme sets nationally agreed standards for Museums in the UK. The scheme supports Museums in identifying opportunities for further improvement and development. Museums with full accreditation have demonstrated that they meet all sections of the Accreditation Standard, and are actively addressing any areas for improvement identified during their initial assessment or regular monitoring review. The Corinium Museum is fully accredited.</p> <p>2. <u>Aims of the Accreditation Scheme</u></p> <p>The aims of the Accreditation Scheme are:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">‘To encourage all museums and galleries to achieve agreed standards in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how they are run; • how they manage their collections; • the experiences of users. <p style="padding-left: 40px;">To encourage confidence in museums as organisations that manage collections for the benefit of society and manage public funds appropriately.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">To reinforce a shared ethical and professional basis for all museums.’</p> <p>3. <u>The Benefits of Taking Part in the Accreditation Scheme</u></p> <p>3.1 <u>Performance</u></p> <p>A quality standard that serves as an authoritative benchmark for assessing performance, rewarding achievement and driving improvement.</p> <p>3.2 <u>Profile</u></p> <p>It raises awareness and understanding of Museums, so building confidence and credibility both within the governing body and among the public.</p>	
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3.3 People

It helps Museums to improve their focus on meeting users' needs and interests and developing their workforce.

3.4 Partnerships

It helps Museums to examine their services and to encourage joint working within and between organisations.

3.5 Planning

It helps with forward planning by formalising procedures and policies.

3.6 Patronage

It demonstrates that the Museum has met a national standard, which strengthens applications for public and private funding and gives investors confidence in the organisation.

3.7 These benefits were put forward in a report commissioned in 2011 by the Museums Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) and The National Archives (TNA).

4. Changes to the Collections Policies

4.1 The Accreditation Standard 2011 includes a Collections Development Policy which replaces the previous Acquisition and Disposal Policy. This policy must include the following:

- the statement of purpose;
- an overview of current collections;
- themes and priorities for future collecting;
- themes and priorities for rationalisation and disposal;
- information about the legal and ethical framework for acquisition and disposal of items.

4.2 In addition, the new standard requires a separate Documentation Policy and Care and Conservation Policy. Copies of all three policies are attached at **Appendices A, B and C** respectively.

(END)