

Report of the Assistant Director (Communities and Culture)

York Museums Trust Scrutiny Review Final Report

Summary

1. This report sets out a recommended response from the Cabinet Member to the Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee's report on "*whether YMT have achieved appropriate collections management standards in line with the Collections Loan Agreement and Collections Management Protocol agreed in 2002*".

Background

2. The final report of the scrutiny committee was presented to Cabinet on 8 January, 2013. Cabinet resolved to:
 - i) Note the contents of the final report.
 - ii) Request the Assistant Director (Communities, Culture and Public Realm) to arrange a meeting, at the earliest opportunity, of the Scrutiny Task Group, the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Tourism and officers to go through the review recommendations in more detail to enable a report back to the Leisure, Culture and Overview Committee on 23 January 2013.
 - iii) Delegate approval of the final recommendations of the review to the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Tourism at a future Decision Session.

Consultation

3. The meeting referred to in paragraph 2 above took place on 16 January. As a result of the clarification provided at that meeting the recommendations set out in paragraph 5 are proposed.

4. It was also noted that there is an error in paragraph 70 of the Scrutiny report with regard to the Arts Council funding.

It should have read, "YMT is in receipt of just under £1.2m per year from the Arts Council. This funding, which is for three years from 1 April 2012, replaces the Renaissance funding they previously received."

Implications

5. There are no implications arising directly out of this report.

Recommendation

6. The Cabinet Member is recommended to agree to:
 - i. Request YMT to provide to the next meeting of the Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee a presentation on the key principles that their Acquisition and Disposal policy review will be based on - in order to help frame and support YMT's work on those revisions
 - ii. Request YMT to provide a revised version of the Acquisition and Disposal policy for the Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee's consideration at their meeting in May 2013, prior to it being approved by the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Tourism
 - iii. Note the willingness of YMT's Volunteers Manager to attend ward meetings / community events to identify ward residents who may have useful skills and to help facilitate the recruitment of additional volunteers
 - iv. Ask YMT to provide for the Scrutiny Committee a brief report on their processes for training volunteers and passing on knowledge to enhance the training of new guides and volunteers
 - v. Restate with YMT the relevant section of the legal agreement between YMT and the Council with regard de-accessioning unwanted / damaged / duplicate collection items, in order to provide clarity on the procedure and to allow the progression of work on the collections and the implementation of YMT's plans for the future.
 - vi. Ask YMT to continue their bi-annual update reports to Overview & Scrutiny Committee, ensuring that they:

- a. identify their progress against the Collections Loan Agreement and Collections Management Protocol agreed in 2002
- b. include information on any items disposed of since the last update report.
- vii. Note YMT's continued efforts to improve storage arrangements for the collections and continue to reflect the shared ambition to improve collections management and documentation in the next Partnership Delivery Plan

Reason: To conclude the scrutiny review in line with the Council's Scrutiny procedures and protocols.

Annex 1: York Museums Trust Scrutiny Review Final Report – Cover Report

Contact Details

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Report Approved ✓ Date: 1.2.13.		
Specialist Implications Officer(s): N/A		
Wards Affected:	All	✓
For further information please contact the author of the report		

Background Papers: *York Museums Trust Scrutiny Review – Final Report*, Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee, November, 2012.