

SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of: Executive Director - Commercialisation (S151)

To: Policy Development Panel Wednesday, 4 November 2020

(Author: Julia Knight Manager - Ayscoughfee Hall Museum and Gardens)

Subject Ayscoughfee Hall Museum Collections Development Policy

Purpose: To consult with Policy Development Panel regarding Ayscoughfee Hall Museum's Collections Development Policy.

Recommendation(s):

- 1) That the Panel considers the Policy, provides feedback and comments that it may wish to make in readiness for submission to the Portfolio Holder.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Ayscoughfee Hall Museum is Accredited by Arts Council England. The Accreditation scheme is a national framework for museums that lays out best practice guidelines and standards to follow, to ensure professionalism and consistency.
- 1.2 Accredited status allows Ayscoughfee Hall Museum access to professional networks, training, support and funding.
- 1.3 A key requirement for Accreditation is the need for two policies: Collections Development and Care & Conservation.
- 1.4 The Collections Development Policy describes the existing collections held by the Museum, the priorities for future collecting, and the priorities for any disposal that may occur.
- 1.5 Arts Council England review each museum's Accreditation on a regular basis, reviewing policies and ensuring that they have been discussed and approved by the relevant governing body.
- 1.6 Ayscoughfee Hall Museum's policies were last formally approved in 2012, but have been updated with minor revisions as best practice and industry guidance is received.
- 1.7 Ayscoughfee Hall Museum's Accreditation Review is due to take place in February 2021, having been paused during the Covid 19 pandemic.

2.0 OPTIONS

- 2.1 To support the policy for submission to the Portfolio Holder; or
- 2.2 To support subject to comments for consideration by the Portfolio Holder; or

2.3 Do nothing and continue to operate with existing policy.

3.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

3.1 In order to retain Accredited Status, Ayscoughfee Hall Museum is required to have a formally approved Collections Development Policy, in line with Arts Council England requirements. Arts Council England requires certain wording to be used in certain paragraphs, particularly relating to human remains, trade in endangered species, and the spoliation of works of art during the Nazi, Holocaust and World War II period.

4.0 EXPECTED BENEFITS

4.1 Ayscoughfee Hall Museum will retain Accredited status, meaning that funding can be applied for, and the Museum is recognised as a well-managed, professional museum.

4.2 Ayscoughfee Hall Museum's collection of historic objects and artefacts will continue to be managed in the correct way, to ensure their survival for the future.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

In preparing this report, the report author has considered the likely implications of the decision - particularly in terms of Carbon Footprint / Environmental Issues; Constitutional & Legal; Contracts; Corporate Priorities; Crime & Disorder; Data Protection; Equality & Diversity/Human Rights; Financial; Health & Wellbeing; Reputation; Risk Management; Safeguarding; Staffing; Stakeholders/Consultation/Timescales; Transformation Programme; Other. Where the report author considers that there may be implications under one or more of these headings, these are identified below.

5.1 Constitutional & Legal

5.1.1 The ownership of collections objects and artefacts may be queried, if disposal is publicised. Due diligence will be carried out by Ayscoughfee Hall Museum staff to ensure confidence in process.

5.1.2 In accordance with the provisions of the UNESCO 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, which the UK ratified with effect from November 1 2002, and the Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act 2003, the Museum will reject any items that have been illicitly traded. The governing body will be guided by the national guidance on the responsible acquisition of cultural property issued by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in 2005.

5.2 Corporate Priorities

This policy supports the following Corporate Priority:

Your Place: Lead, enable and embed the provision of a range of improved local community, cultural and art facilities that support the enhanced wellbeing of South Holland's communities

5.3 **Financial**

5.3.1 The acceptance of this policy will enable Ayscoughfee Hall Museum to continue to be eligible for external funding that can only be awarded to Accredited organisations.

5.4 **Reputation**

5.4.1 If a suitable policy is not in place, and Accreditation is withdrawn, the reputation of Ayscoughfee Hall Museum and South Holland District Council, may be affected due to a perceived loss of professionalism in the management of the Museum and its collection.

5.5 **Risk Management**

5.5.1 If a suitable policy is not in place, Ayscoughfee Hall Museum will lose its Accredited status, meaning that funding cannot be applied for, and the Museum is not recognised as a well-managed, professional museum.

5.5.2 Ayscoughfee Hall Museum's collection of historic objects and artefacts will continue to be managed in the correct way, to ensure their survival for the future.

5.6 **Staffing**

5.6.1 Should the policy be agreed, all staff will be briefed and trained in any new operational details.

5.7 **Stakeholders / Constitution / Timescales**

5.7.1 Arts Council England Accreditation is reviewed every three years, with an expectation that policies will be updated, agreed and formally approved in line with the governing body's usual timescales.

5.7.2 Ayscoughfee Hall Museum's Accreditation will next be reviewed in February 2021.

6.0 **WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED**

6.1 All

Background papers:- none

Lead Contact Officer

Name and Post: Julia Knight Manager - Ayscoughfee Hall Museum and Gardens

Telephone Number

Email: jknight@sholland.gov.uk

Key Decision: N

Exempt Decision: N

This report refers to a Discretionary Service

Appendices attached to this report:

Appendix A

Ayscoughfee Hall Museum Collections Development Policy