

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....8th January 2009

1. Title of Item/Report

Stockton Council Museum's Collection Rationalisation

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on Stockton Council Museum's Collection Rationalisation. Stockton's Museum collections comprised some 65,000 - 100,000 objects. The bulk of collections were social history but there were notable fine art, weapons and archaeology collections. The collection was of variable quality with much duplication, it did not adequately tell the story of the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees, and the Council could not adequately care for and display much of it.

The Stockton Museum Strategy, accepted by full Council in 2005, and Council's Adults, Leisure and Culture Scrutiny Committee Preston Hall Museum study (2006) had both highlighted the need to rationalise (find another use for, disperse or dispose of) the museum collections. The report sought approval for the necessary Policy to implement and manage this process, and agreement on a method by which items recommended by qualified curatorial staff for rationalisation may be approved by Cabinet. The proposed method followed national Museums Libraries and Archives Association guidance. Items would be assessed against clear criteria and officers' recommendations would be presented to a Members Panel at quarterly meetings.

The 'Stockton Council Museums Collections Rationalisation Policy 2009-2012' was attached to the report.

RESOLVED that:-

1. Stockton Council Museums Collections Rationalisation Policy 2009-2012 be ratified and accepted.

2. The establishment of a Collections Rationalisation Members Panel be agreed comprising 6 Members, made up of 1 each from Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democrat, TIA, IBIS and BIA and advised by officers, with delegated authority from Cabinet to agree the disposal or re-use of unwanted museum collections items, according to the criteria

set out in the Stockton Borough Council Museums Collections Rationalisation Policy 2008 - 20012, through a series of quarterly meetings over the period 2009 - 2012.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To ensure the Council has the right collection to tell the story of Stockton, to attract residents and visitors, to foster pride and deepen resident's sense of their heritage and belonging, and to avoid keeping and caring for objects with little or no value or relevance which we do not have the facilities to display.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Not later than Midnight on Friday, 16th January 2009

Proper Officer  
12 January 2009