

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services
Date:	6 March 2025
Title:	Hampshire Cultural Trust: Updated Collections Development Policy for 2025-2030
Report From:	Director of Universal Services

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the updated Hampshire Cultural Trust Collections Development Policy (Appendix A) in accordance with the provisions of the Collections Loan Agreement signed in 2014 between Hampshire County Council (the County Council) and Hampshire Cultural Trust (the Trust).

Recommendations

2. That the Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services:
 - a) Approves the Hampshire Culture Trust Collections Development Policy 2025-2030 for the collection owned and/or held in trust by Hampshire County Council, which has been updated in line with standards set out by the Arts Council England Accreditation Scheme.
 - b) Delegates authority to the Assistant Director Regeneration and Growth (Culture, Communities, Land and Assets) Hampshire 2050 to approve any acquisitions which meet the criteria set out in paragraph 26, subject to the Delegated Authority section.

Executive Summary

3. Established in 2014, Hampshire Cultural Trust is an independent charity that operates cultural venues and manages the County Council's and Winchester City Council's accredited collections in accordance with the Arts Museum England (ACE) Museum Accreditation Scheme, the Museums Association Code of Ethics and the Collection Loan Agreement.
4. All Accredited Museums are required to have a Collections Development Policy for managing and developing their collections.

5. The current Collections Development Policy 2020-2025 was approved by the County Council in 2020; a Policy for the period 2025-2030 needs to be considered and approved by the County Council.
6. The proposal is to develop a bespoke Collections Development Policy 2025-2030 (see Appendix A), independent from Winchester City Council, that will apply to the collections owned by the County Council, except for the Contemporary Art Collection which is made up of unaccessioned items exempt from Accreditation requirements.
7. The changes proposed to the Policy includes returning the power to decide on acquisitions to the County Council in all situations (other than archaeological archives).
8. It is proposed that delegated authority be given to the Assistant Director Regeneration and Growth (Culture, Communities, Land and Assets) Hampshire 2050 to assess and approve potential acquisitions proposed by the Trust that meet the criteria set out in paragraph 26 of this report.
9. This decision has no financial implications for the County Council.

Contextual information

10. Hampshire Cultural Trust was established in 2014 as an independent charitable trust to operate a portfolio of heritage and cultural venues and manage the County Council's and Winchester City Council's accredited collections, made up of circa 2.5 million historic objects. It is one of the largest regional museum collections in England and holds large and nationally important Archaeology, Art, Natural Sciences, Photography and Local History Collections.
11. The Trust is required to manage the collections according to the Arts Museum England (ACE) Museum Accreditation Scheme, the Museums Association Code of Ethics and the Collection Loan Agreement.
12. Museum Accreditation is the UK industry standard for museums and galleries and is managed by ACE. Accreditation is the standard that many funders use to decide whether an organisation is eligible to apply for funding, so it is essential that the museums remain Accredited.
13. The County Council's Contemporary Art Collection is not an accessioned collection and therefore not governed by the ACE standards mentioned above.
14. Having a policy, approved by the governing body, for developing collections, including acquisitions¹ and disposals, is a requirement that all Accredited Museums must comply with (requirement 4.2 of the Accreditation Standard).
15. The current Collections Development Policy 2020-2025 was approved by the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage on 21 September 2020. This policy is now due for review and will cover a period of 2025-2030 in line with

¹ Acquisition is defined as the process of obtaining legal title and ownership and in the current context refers to acquiring an object with the intention of using it for museum purposes.

Museum Accreditation standards. There is an opportunity to introduce some changes to make the process of acquiring new objects more stringent. The aim is to make the collections fit for purpose including to relieve future financial pressures faced by the County Council as its owner.

16. The proposed 2025-2030 Policy will be reviewed by the Trust Board on 21 February 2025. The approval of the County Council is required before the policy can be adopted by the Trust.

Legal

17. Multiple agreements govern the relationship between the County Council and the Trust. The Management and Funding Agreement sets out the basis for the provision of funding, which is complemented by several additional, separate agreements including the Collection Loan Agreement which sets out the terms for loan of the collections, including the responsibilities that the Trust has under the agreement to care for, maintain, conserve, repair, restore, interpret and undertake day-to-day management of the collections.
18. The Collection Loan Agreement requires the Trust to manage the Collections in accordance with the ACE Museum Accreditation Scheme. Whilst the Accreditation Scheme itself is not legally binding, the Trust, is required to have a Collections Development Policy under the Accreditation Scheme.
19. Changes to the Policy have to be approved by the County Council, in accordance with Clause 5.6 of the Collections Loan Agreement.

Delegated Authority

20. It is recommended that authority is delegated to the Assistant Director Regeneration and Growth (Culture, Communities, Land and Assets) Hampshire 2050 to decide on the acquisition of any items proposed by the Trust that meet the criteria outlined in paragraph 27(b) for addition to the collection.

Finance

21. This decision has no financial implications for the County Council.
22. In relation to the Delegated Authority mentioned above, should the Trust seek the County Council's approval to acquire an object that meets the criteria set out in paragraph 27(b), approval could only be given if budgetary provision can be identified or obtained, or the Trust offers to fund or has secured external funding for the acquisition.
23. In accordance with the Accreditation Standard, any money raised as a result of disposal through sale will be applied solely and directly for the benefit of the museum's collection. The use of proceeds from any sale will also be monitored through the Accreditation Scheme.

Changes to the 2020-2025 Policy

24. The Collections Development Policy 2020-2025 applies to both Hampshire County Council and Winchester City Council's collections. The proposal is to develop a bespoke Collections Development Policy 2025-2030, independent

from Winchester City Council, that will apply to the collection owned by the County Council.

25. The new Policy is based on the mandatory ACE Museum Accreditation template dated 2014 and reprinted in 2018. ACE has announced a review of the template and is likely to publish an updated version in 2026. Once an updated template is available, it will be used for any subsequent review of the policy. Until then, the most recent available template will be used.
26. The key differences to the Policy since it was last updated and approved by the County Council are:
 - full control on acquisitions is given to the County Council by removing the delegated power for the Trust to decide on new additions to the collection with the exception of archaeological archives, which the Trust is required to store following exercise of planning policies
 - the Trust can request an acquisition on a case-by-case basis provided that the object meets all three criteria (i) relevance (a direct connection with the historic county of Hampshire and/or one of its historic residents); (ii) public benefit (potential to reveal new insights, challenge misconceptions, grow local pride, sparks a ‘wow’ moment, and/or serve as inspiration for creativity or research, and (iii) strategic need and business case to prove they make a critical and sustainable contribution towards delivering the Trust’s 2030 vision. The decision as to acquisition shall be at the County Council’s discretion.
 - recognising the need for the Trust to work together with the County Council and respond to storage limitations, the Policy provides for the parties to jointly agree on the priorities for disposal; this provides greater flexibility for review and rationalisation of the collection
 - introducing the dynamic disposal approach provided in the Museum Association and ACE disposal guidance.
27. The changes further support the Trust’s level of caution and care taken when considering the addition of a historic object in the museum collection, with consideration for the long-term legacy of such decisions.

Consultation and Equalities

28. Officers from the County Council and the Trust have worked together in the development of the proposed Policy. No public consultation was undertaken specifically for the Policy review.
29. None of the changes to the Policy have an impact on the accessibility of the collections or how they are enjoyed and experienced by the public. There is no evidence to suggest that this decision will impact disproportionately on people with protected characteristics. Equality, diversity and inclusion are strategic priorities for the Trust; The Trust can propose objects that address the underrepresentation of communities for acquisition by the County Council.

Climate Change Impact Assessment

30. The County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a

clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.

31. The climate change tools are not applicable to this decision and therefore it does not require a climate change assessment.

Climate Change Adaptation

32. Climate change adaptation considerations, including heatwaves, flooding, storms, etc., are not anticipated to be influenced by this decision and therefore the adaptation tool was not considered relevant to this decision report.

Carbon Mitigation

33. This decision is not anticipated to directly influence carbon emissions and therefore the mitigation tool was not considered relevant to this decision report.

Conclusions

34. The Trust's Collections Development Policy 2025-2030 has been updated in line with standards set out by the Arts Council England Accreditation Scheme.
35. The proposed changes to the Policy include (i) the development of a bespoke Hampshire County Council's Collections Development Policy (independent from Winchester City Council) and (ii) control of the process of acquiring new museum objects by returning the power to decide on acquisition to the County Council in all situations (other than archaeological archives).
36. The proposed amendments are the most suitable in terms of retaining the right to decide on each object that is accessioned into the collection and setting clear criteria for curatorially led disposals, whilst ensuring the collection is managed in a professional and ethical manner.
37. It is recommended that the Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services approves the Trust's Collections Development Policy 2025-2030 and delegates authority to the Assistant Director Regeneration and Growth (Culture, Communities, Land and Assets) Hampshire 2050 to approve acquisitions as outlined in paragraph 2.
38. Once approved, the Policy will guide the Trust's work on developing and improving the museum collections owned by the County Council.
39. Evidence of the approval to the Collections Development Policy 2025-2030 by the County Council will be submitted with the next ACE Museum Accreditation return.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
2020-09-21 Decision Report HCT Collections Development Policy 2020-2025	
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
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None

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

There is no evidence to suggest that the proposed 2025-2030 Collections Development Policy will impact disproportionately on people with protected characteristics.

None of the changes to the Policy have an impact on the accessibility of the collections or how they are enjoyed and experienced by the public.

Equality, diversity and inclusion are strategic priorities for the Trust; The Trust can propose objects that address the underrepresentation of communities for acquisition by the County Council.