

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF A KEY DECISION CABINET

ITEM:	PROPOSED TRUST STATUS FOR MUSEUM SERVICE
Members Present:	Councillors: AW Johnson (Leader), H Bramer, J Millar, PM Morgan (Deputy Leader), GJ Powell, PD Price.
Date of Decision:	23 January 2014
Exempt:	No
Confidential	No
<p>This is a key decision because</p> <p>It is likely to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function concerned. A threshold of £500,000 is regarded as significant.</p>	
<p>A notice was served in accordance with Part 3, Section 9 (Publicity in connection with key decisions) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.</p>	
Urgency/Special Urgency: (As defined in Constitution)	No
Purpose:	To consider the proposal and options for moving Herefordshire Museum services to Trust status.
Decision:	THAT: a procurement process is undertaken to solicit tenders from charitable trusts for the purpose of delivering the museum service in Herefordshire.
Reasons for the Decision:	On 19 September 2013 a Cabinet decision was made for the museum service to undergo a restructure to a reduced level of service and to commence negotiations with existing trusts in order to find a sustainable and safeguarded future for the museum service and the Hereford collection.
Options Considered:	<p>An alternative option would be to continue to manage the service by the Herefordshire Council. This option was explored within the Cabinet Report of 19 September 2013 and it was judged that the long-term sustainability of the Herefordshire collection was best provided for within a trust arrangement as it makes external financial funding easier to access and also brings management and associated financial efficiencies.</p> <p>Should there be no existing trust forthcoming to enter into an arrangement with the museum service the option of considering a small independent trust may be appropriate. However advice from a specialist museum consultant indicated that the small critical mass of the Hereford service may make this option unviable.</p>

Conflict of Interest ■ (See below):	
Date the key decision is due to take effect:	29 January 2014

COUNCILLOR AW JOHNSONDate: 23 January 2014 LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

- a record of any conflict of interest declared by any executive member who is consulted by the member which relates to the decision;

And

- in respect of any declared conflict of interest, a note of dispensation granted by the relevant local authority's head of paid service.