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Record of operational decision

Decision title:	Loan of the Herefordshire Hoard to the JORVIK Viking Centre, York
Date of decision:	18/12/2023
Decision maker:	Service Director Communities
Authority for delegated decision:	Under the Chief Executive scheme of delegation (CW-18), decision related to cultural and leisure services may be undertaken by the Corporate Director for Community Wellbeing.
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	The museum service have consulted with the Cabinet Member Community Services and Assets and Corporate Director for Community Wellbeing. The Council's legal and risk and assurance teams have also been consulted about the loan of the Hoard as have the council's insurers.
Decision made:	To approve the loan of the Herefordshire Hoard for display in the Artefact Gallery at the JORVIK Viking Centre, York from January to August 2024.
Reasons for decision:	<p>This loan provides an opportunity to promote Herefordshire's collection, particularly while Hereford Museum and Art Gallery is closed for redevelopment, whilst increasing the public's knowledge, understanding and appreciation of our archaeological history.</p> <p>The Herefordshire Hoard is one of the most significant Viking hoards ever found in Western Britain and to date only a few of its contents have been recovered. The importance to the national heritage lies in the new historical narrative it has provided as well as the rarity, beauty and significance of the objects. However, it remains largely unknown beyond specialist interest audiences and pockets of local people.</p> <p>The Hoard is a key asset in driving footfall to Herefordshire and interest in the redevelopment of Hereford Museum and Art Gallery. This loan will start to raise the profile of the Hoard in advance of re-opening and is fundamental to delivering the visitor numbers required to meet the ambitions of the redevelopment.</p> <p>This is a high prestige loan for the Herefordshire Hoard and the Council. JORVIK Viking Centre is a world-famous museum and visitor centre in York exploring the history of the Vikings in the British Isles. Its interactive visitor experience and high quality temporary exhibition programme attracts around 400,000 visitors a year. It is a centre of excellence for the study and research of the Viking period in the British Isles.</p> <p>The Hoard is to be centrepiece of their annual Viking Festival celebrations. The focus of the 2024 Festival the relationships between the Vikings and the kingdoms of Wessex and Mercia. It will explore the themes of Viking hoard deposition, raiding and long distance travel. This would be a</p>

	JORVIK have completed the necessary steps required for the loan process used for inter-museum lending. Their venue meets the standard required for the Government Indemnity Scheme, which means their standards of security, environmental control, packing, transport, and display are suitable for high value and culturally important objects. They have completed full security, facilities and display reports to ensure the appropriate standards are met for the Hoard's specific needs. A legally binding loan agreement will be completed using the industry standard, SPECTRUM Primary Procedure Loans out (lending objects), if the loan is approved.
Equality Considerations	NA.
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p>Risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security - JORVIK have completed a full security report. • Environmental conditions – JORVIK have completed a facilities report. The gallery and display case meets the standards required for display of the Hoard. • Display – JORVIK's display design and interpretative approach is appropriate for the Hoard . <p>Financial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs - JORVIK responsible for all aspects of the loan and any costs associated with it. • Insurance - The loan is covered "nail-to-nail" insurance giving coverage from when it leaves, is in transit and for the duration of exhibition until it returns to Hereford. <p>Legal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loan agreement - A legally binding loan agreement has been signed between both parties covering the full duration of the loan, handling, display, environmental and security requirements.
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<p>The alternative options are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not to approve the loan - this would close down an opportunity to promote Herefordshire and develop new partnership between museum services.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed..... Date: 21 December 2023

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