

**Single Member Cabinet Decision**

<b>Executive Forward Plan Reference</b>	<b>E2179</b>
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De-accessioning of museum objects from the Fashion Museum's collections

<b>Decision maker/s</b>	<b>Cllr Terry Gazzard, Cabinet Member for Development and Major Projects</b>
<b>The Issue</b>	The report proposes the de-accessioning from the Fashion Museum's records of objects that fall outside the museums' approved collecting policies and whose public benefit would be better served by being in other public museums or archives, or that have long since disappeared or been transferred elsewhere. Under the national Accreditation Scheme for Museums, the authority of the governing body is required if museum objects are to be de-accessioned, i.e. removed from the museum's register of publicly-owned collections.
<b>Decision Date</b>	04 October 2010
<b>The decision</b>	The Cabinet Member agrees that the collections listed in Appendix A of the report be removed from the accession records of the Fashion Museum.
<b>Rationale for decision</b>	<p>The rationale for de-accessioning these objects is that following a review of collections held by the Fashion Museum some of the objects do not fit into the Council's agreed acquisitions policy and more properly belong in public collections elsewhere; some are not of museum quality or are in such poor condition that they do not merit retention and some have long since disappeared and are no longer held by the museum.</p> <p>These disposals will save officer time, conservation resources and storage space and are in line with the Code of Ethics for Museums adopted by this Council and with national best practice.</p>
<b>Financial and budget implications</b>	There are no direct or immediate financial implications to this report. Rationalisation of collections and their associated documentation leads to more efficient use of resources. Any necessary documentation will be undertaken within existing resources. Any cost of the conservation, handling and transport of items transferred to other museums will be borne by the recipient institution. In line with the Accreditation guidelines adopted by the Council, any remuneration received from the sale of objects – once all other avenues of disposal have been tried – will be solely and directly applied to the benefit of other museum collections held by the Council.
<b>Issues considered</b>	Customer Focus; Impact on Staff.

<b>Consultation undertaken</b>	A draft of this report was sent for comment to Abbey Ward Councillors; the Cabinet Member for Development and Major Projects; the Chair of the Enterprise and Economic Development Overview & Scrutiny Panel; Staff; the Heritage Services Focus Group; Chair of the West of England Costume Society; Section 151 Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer.
<b>How consultation was carried out</b>	Consultation was carried out in person, by telephone or by e-mail.
<b>Other options considered</b>	<p>Another option would be to try to sell the items in question. However this would be unlikely to yield any significant sums and, to abide by the Code of Ethics for Museums, a sale could only take place when all other avenues of enquiry into disposal had been exhausted. The proceeds of any such sale would have to be applied to the acquisition of new and relevant items for the collection, or to the care of the remaining existing collection.</p> <p>This option would contravene the Code of Ethics for Museums adopted by the Council; it could lose the Fashion Museum, Victoria Art Gallery and Roman Baths Museum their Accredited status and the Fashion Museum and Roman Baths Museum their Designated status; and it would bring the Council into disrepute and discourage future benefactors from donating objects to the Council's museums. This course of action is therefore not recommended.}</p>

<b>Signatures of Decision Makers</b>	
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<b>Date of Signature</b>	
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**Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision**