

## Single Member Cabinet Decision

**Executive  
Forward Plan  
Reference****E 2853****Adoption of Professional Standards**

<b>Decision maker/s</b>	Cllr Patrick Anketell-Jones, Cabinet Member Economic Development
<b>The Issue</b>	The report recommended the adoption of three policy statements of best practice for museums and archives in respect of Accessibility, the revised Museums Association 'Code of Ethics for Museums' and a Research Framework for Heritage Services.
<b>Decision Date</b>	18 July 2016
<b>The decision</b>	The Cabinet Member agreed to the adoption of: a) The Access Statements for Bath Record Office, Fashion Museum, Roman Baths and Victoria Art Gallery; b) The Museums Association's revised 'Code of Ethics for Museums'; c) The Heritage Services Research Framework.
<b>Rationale for decision</b>	Adopting these policies will keep the authority in line with best practice and maintain its reputation as a good custodian of important museum and archive collections. Without 'access statements' the 'Accredited' status of the Council's museums and archives would be jeopardised. Loss of 'Accredited' status would render the museums and archives ineligible for grant-aid from numerous sources. It would mean that the Council's museums no longer attain the minimum national standards for museums and they would lose credibility in their community leadership role amongst the many other museums on Bath and North East Somerset.
<b>Financial and budget implications</b>	There are no financial implications that follow from the adoption of these professional standards. However the Accredited status enabled by the policies on accessibility can qualify the Council's museums and archives for grant aid from external bodies. Heritage Services has benefited from grant-aid from these Accreditation-dependent sources amounting to £1,200,000 over the past seven years.
<b>Issues considered (these are covered in more detail in the report)</b>	Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Sustainability; Impact on Staff.
<b>Consultation undertaken</b>	Staff; Service Users; Local Residents; Community Interest Groups; Other Public Sector Bodies; Section 151 Finance Officer
<b>How consultation was carried out</b>	The Access Statements were drawn up in line with the Council's own access policies and statements. They have also been informed by feedback from service users over a long period of time.  The Museums Association revised Code of Ethics is the result of an

	<p>18-month period of consultation during 2014/15 involving people from across the museums sector, funders, interest groups, members of the public and other stakeholders.</p> <p>The Research Framework has been drawn up in line with national best practice. It draws upon the experiences of and feedback from a wide range of professional, academic and volunteer service users over a long period of time. Special mention should be made of the role of the Friends of the Victoria Art Gallery in this process.</p>
<b>Other options considered</b>	None
<b>Declaration of interest by Cabinet Member(s) for decision, including any dispensation granted:</b>	None
<b>Any conflict of interest declared by anyone who is consulted by a Member taking the decision:</b>	None

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