

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education Culture and Sport
DATE	31 January 2013
DIRECTOR	Gayle Gorman
TITLE OF REPORT	Accreditation Application – Revision of Aberdeen Art Gallery & Museums Collections Development Policy
REPORT NUMBER:	ECS/13/001

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the Accreditation Scheme for Museums and Art Galleries in the United Kingdom 2011 Standard and to place before committee a Collections Development Policy. The Accreditation Standard, which sets national professional standards of care and management for Museums and Art Galleries, was revised in 2011 and now requires all governing bodies of museums and galleries to adopt a 'Collections Development Policy' in place of an 'Acquisitions and Disposals Policy' to achieve Accreditation status.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Committee adopts the Collections Development Policy

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Collections Development Policy acknowledges the current financial situation and available budget for acquisitions of works of art and artefacts. Where appropriate, the service will continue to seek matching grants from external organisations towards the cost of new acquisitions and delivering collections projects.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

If the Collections Development Policy is not adopted the Museums and Galleries service risks losing its Full Accreditation status. This would preclude the service from applying for external grants for revenue and capital projects, including applications to the Heritage Lottery Fund and Museums Galleries Scotland.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

In November 2004 the Museums Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) launched a new standard for museums, the Accreditation Scheme, which set nationally agreed minimum standards for all UK museum services. Accreditation benefits users of museum services and acts as a benchmark for grant-making organisations, sponsors and donors.

The scheme is now administered by Arts Council England (ACE) following its merger with MLA in 2011. ACE administers the scheme for the entire United Kingdom, in partnership with Museums Galleries Scotland, Northern Ireland Museums Council and CyMAL.

Accreditation is a set of national standards for UK museums. To achieve these standards museums must meet published requirements in how they care for and document their collections, how they are governed and managed, and on the information and services they offer to their users. The standards are reviewed regularly to ensure that they continue to set appropriate benchmarks for the museums sector. The most recent review took place in 2011 and the Accreditation Scheme for Museums and Art Galleries in the United Kingdom 2011 Standard requires all new and returning applicants to provide increased evidence of professional standards and engagement with visitors.

Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museums has held full Accreditation status since 2006, which was renewed in 2010. Holders of Accreditation are required to submit a biennial return to retain this status. The service has been invited (as a returning applicant) to submit an application for Accreditation under the 2011 Standard in January 2013.

Included in this application is the new requirement to submit a Collections Development Policy. This document describes how the collections cared for by Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museums are managed, conserved and developed and the processes in place to deal with exhibitions and loans. The Collections Development Policy encompasses the 'Acquisitions and Disposal Policy 2010-2015' approved by the Education Culture and Sport Committee on 16 September 2010.

Although the format of the policy has changed to comply with the new template required for Accreditation, the substance of the policy has not been altered.

6. IMPACT

This report relates to "Aberdeen – the Smarter City" particularly:

- We will improve access to and increase participation in arts and culture by providing opportunities for citizens and visitors to experience a broad range of high quality arts and cultural activities.
- We aspire to be recognised as a City of Culture, a place of excellence for culture and arts by promoting Aberdeen as a cultural centre hosting

high quality and diverse cultural events for the whole community and beyond.

- We will embrace the distinctive pride the people of Aberdeen take in their city and work with them to enhance the sense of well-being here, building strong communities which look out for, and look after one another.
- We aim to leave a legacy which will make compelling reading in a new chapter in the history of Aberdeen and we aim to do this with one voice.
- Working with our third, public and private sector partners, we will provide opportunities for lifelong learning which will develop knowledge, skills and attributes of our citizens to enable them to meet the changing demands of the 21st century.

There are also links with the delivery of the city's Cultural Strategy, "Vibrant Aberdeen" and the bid development to become UK City of Culture. It also has direct links to the city's Learning Strategy and in supporting the experiences and outcomes of the Curriculum for Excellence.

In terms of the Single Outcome Agreement, the development and interpretation of the Collections contribute to Outcome 3, "We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation" and Outcome 13, 'We will take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity'.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

A copy of the Collections Development Policy has been placed in the Members Lounge.

Report to Education Culture and Sport Committee 16 September 2010 item 21 Acquisitions and Disposals Policy 2010-2015 ECS/10/067
(<http://councilcommittees/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=9145>)

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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