

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	City Growth & Resources
DATE	27/11/2018
REPORT TITLE	Museums and Gallery: Collections Development Policy
REPORT NUMBER	PLA/18/255
DIRECTOR	N/A
CHIEF OFFICER	Richard Sweetman
REPORT AUTHOR	Helen Fothergill
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.2

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for the reviewed Policy for Collections Development relating to the activities of the Art Gallery and Museums, in line with requirements for Museum Accreditation.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Approves the adoption of the updated policy and associated appendices to ensure the council complies with Museum Accreditation requirements (Collections Development Policy 2018-2023; Appendices A-I inclusive).

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museums is an Accredited Museum and is designated as a Recognised Collection of National Significance. As such the service is required to comply with the terms of the UK Museum Accreditation Scheme
(<https://www.museumsgalleriesscotland.org.uk/accreditation-recognition/>)
- 3.2 The previous Collections Development Policy has expired. A minute of approval by Committee is required for the Policy to be accepted as a valid under the Accreditation scheme.
- 3.3 The period of the policy is set at a maximum of 5 years under the Accreditation scheme, but may be reviewed prior to that date by Chief Officer direction.

- 3.4 The content of the policy document (Appendix 1) is prescribed by the Accreditation Scheme jointly administered by UK Department of Digital, Culture, Media & Sport and Scottish Arts, Culture & Sport (via Museums Galleries Scotland) and cannot be altered.
- 3.5 The legal terms we are asked to comply with are laid out for all Accredited Museums throughout the UK and prescribed within the Collections Development template.
- 3.6 The Collections Development Policy (CDP) sets out how and why we collect heritage objects, artefacts and works of art; the laws and limitations to what is collected; what is not collected; how collections are managed and rationalised to make best use of available resources.
- 3.7 Accredited status enables Aberdeen City Council to apply for significant grants, and is a requirement to maintain the current funding relationship with the Heritage Lottery Fund (Art Gallery Redevelopment c. £10M)
- 3.8 The Collections Development Policy and associated appendices will be publicly available via www.aagm.co.uk in line with Museum Accreditation guidance.
- 3.9 Acquisitions that fall outwith the policy can be considered in exceptional circumstances. In such cases these will be referred to committee.
- 3.10 Collection reviews (ref Appendix 1 sections 5.1) are carried out during the lifetime of the policy to ensure that the existing collection remains relevant. These reviews adhere to professional standards set out by the Accreditation scheme. Such reviews will often involve museum sector peer support, academic expert advice and engagement with key groups from the community, dependant on specific area of collection under review.
- 3.11 Conditions under which disposal from the collections is considered are bound by the Accreditation Scheme. Deviation from this prescribed course of action would result in loss of Accredited status (ref Appendix 1 sections 1.7 and 16.1-18).

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The service complies with:
 - the UNESCO 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property which was ratified by the UK with effect from 1/11/2002;

- UK Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) ratified 1976;
- the laws of *bona vacantia* including Treasure Trove;
- the statement of principles ‘Spoliation of Works of Art during the Nazi, Holocaust and World War II period’, issued for non-national museums in 1999 by the Museums and Galleries Commission;
- *Current Guidance for the Care of Human Remains in Scottish Museums* issued by Museums Galleries Scotland in 2011.

5.2 Valid title is defined under ICOM (International Council of Museums) as “Indisputable right to ownership of property, supported by full provenance of the item from discovery or production.”

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

	Risk	Low (L), Medium (M), High (H)	Mitigation
Financial	Loss of funding opportunities from sources such as HLF, MGS, NFA and Art Fund due to loss of Accredited status. Loss of ability to borrow significant exhibitions/loans resulting in adverse effect on business plan.	H	Adopt policy as recommended above, to comply with Museum Accreditation scheme
Legal	Non-compliance with key legal terms for collecting cultural assets including but not limited to: CITES; Spoliation; Human Remains; Treasure Trove	L	Qualified staff with experience in researching and understanding provenance of items entering the collection; adherence to Museum Ethics voluntary guidelines issued by the Museums Association
Employee	N/A	N/A	N/A
Customer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Environment	N/A	N/A	N/A
Technology	N/A	N/A	N/A
Reputational	Non-compliance with national standards leading to loss of Museum Accreditation status would result in reduced ability to borrow from other accredited/national and international museums and galleries	L	Adopt policy as recommended above, to comply with Museum Accreditation scheme

	Risk	Low (L), Medium (M), High (H)	Mitigation
	<p>Aberdeen Art Gallery & Museums and Council's reputation could be affected, including the ability to:</p> <p>accept offers of donations from the public, via bequests and from significant benefactors or grant giving bodies;</p> <p>develop the cultural collection of the city;</p> <p>rationalise collections that are no longer relevant or a drain on the organisation (such as those in extremely poor condition).</p>		<p>Qualified staff with experience in assessing potential acquisitions;</p> <p>Maintaining relationships with potential donors to the collection;</p> <p>Building work programmes with collections development opportunities at their core.</p>

7. OUTCOMES

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes	
	Impact of Report
Prosperous Economy	<p>Delivers on Regional Economic Strategy and LOIP primary driver of Internationalism</p> <p>Acquiring works of art of national and international status and developing future collecting of key areas of Aberdeen's culture (such as oil & gas), historic international connections (such as TB Glover and Aberdeen-built ships) strengthens the city's international links, raises the profile of the city and its collections and drives tourists to visit as a cultural tourism destination.</p> <p>Delivers on tourism priority for the city within the CCMP.</p>
Prosperous People	<p>Sense of pride for our people as cultural heritage items are acquired for public display, research and preservation.</p>

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes	
	Impact of Report
	Inspiring and empowering Aberdonians to “own” and have pride in their cultural heritage and the national & international importance of the collections
Prosperous Place	<p>Enhances Aberdeen and the wider city region’s inward investment and internationalisation offer by presenting the strength of the city’s collections and cultural offer to visitors.</p> <p>Our international place; supports international trade priorities, international exposure to tourism markets etc</p> <p>Maintains the reputation of the city as a cultural hub for the north east.</p> <p>Develops a clear understanding of the city’s heritage and sense of place from both historic and contemporary collecting, ensuring that the collections are seen as a true representation of the culture of the city and the connection of the city to the international art world.</p>

Design Principles of Target Operating Model	
	Impact of Report
Governance	Maintain grant funding relationship with Heritage Lottery Fund (currently £10M for art gallery redevelopment) and other museum specific grant giving bodies, ensuring best use of Council budgets and public monies.
Partnerships and Alliances	National and international partnerships based on Accredited status (including ability to apply for Government Indemnity cover when borrowing high value works; funding for acquisitions to enhance the collection; touring exhibition partnerships; funding for collections care and development)

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	Not Required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not Required
Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty	Not Applicable

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Education, Culture and Sport Committee minute 31/1/2013 Art13

10. APPENDICES (if applicable)

Appendix 1 Collections Development Policy 2018-2022

Appendix 2 Appendix A Collection Description
Appendix 3 Appendix B Future Collecting
Appendix 4 Appendix C Review and Rationalisation
Appendix 5 Appendix D Care & Conservation
Appendix 6 Appendix E Collection Documentation
Appendix 7 Appendix F Loans
Appendix 8 Appendix G Definitions
Appendix 9 Appendix H History Collection Classifications
Appendix 10 Appendix I Concordat

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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