

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>MUSEUM ACCREDITATION POLICIES</b>
<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER DECISION</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> October 2016</b>
<b>DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:</b>	<b>Countywide</b>

**1. PURPOSE:**

1.1 To seek approval of the following policies:

- Monmouthshire Museums Service Collections Development Policy
- Monmouthshire Museums Service Collections Documentation Policy
- Monmouthshire Museums Service Care and Conservation Policy
- Monmouthshire Museums Service Environmental Sustainability Policy
- Abergavenny Museum Access Statement
- Caldicot Castle Access Statement
- Chepstow Museum Access Statement
- The Nelson Museum and Local History Centre, Monmouth Access Statement

1.2. All of these policies are essentially the same as those approved in 2013 for the last round of Museum Accreditation, with small updates as needed.

1.3. It is a requirement of Accreditation that a Forward Plan is submitted. This work is currently being carried out by Museum Service Officers. Arts Council England and Museums, Archives, Libraries Division, Welsh Government who administer the scheme are aware there will be a delay in us seeking approval for the Forward Plan. It is our intention that we will bring this for approval before the end of 2016 to complete the full set of approvals required for Full Accreditation.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

2.1 That the policies be adopted.

**3. KEY ISSUES:**

3.1. Abergavenny Museum, Caldicot Castle, Chepstow Museum, Monmouth Museum administered by Monmouthshire County Council are all 'Accredited' under the national scheme administered by Arts Council England via MALD (Museums, Libraries, Archives, Division, Wales). The Accreditation process requires museums to meet minimum standards for a range of service provision. Only Accredited Museums are eligible for central government controlled funding schemes and other support, such as Lottery and the grant schemes administered by CyMAL: Welsh Assembly Government.

3.2. The revisions made to the previous policies are all considered to be 'non-contentious', in that they are in keeping with the spirit and purpose of the previous policies and do not involve any unavoidable additional financial commitments or obligations for the Council. All of the policies are based on templates recommended by professional museum bodies and take into account national legislation and local issues.

#### **4. REASONS:**

- 4.1. The Accreditation Scheme invites museums to seek Accreditation approximately every three years. Evidence must be submitted to show that the revised policies have been formally approved under delegated powers.

#### **5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

- 5.1 'Accredited' status for the Council's museums is regarded as essential in order to maintain eligibility for a range of outside funding, advice and support.
- 5.2 The policies will not commit the Council to additional expenditure.

#### **6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:**

The significant equality impacts identified in the assessment (Appendix 1) are summarised below for members' consideration:

- 6.1. The policies will not have any negative impact on sustainable development and equality. They will have a positive impact in elements of each of the key priority areas.
- 6.2. The actual impacts from this report's recommendations will be reviewed every 3 years. The criteria for monitoring and review will include any significant changes to the policies.

#### **7. CONSULTEES:**

Cath Fallon, Head of Economy and Innovation

Matthew Lewis, Countryside Manager

Kate Edwards, Caldicot Castle

Hazel Clatworthy, Sustainability Community Officer

Anne Rainsbury, Deputy Museums Officer/Curator, Chepstow Museum

Megan de Silva, Objects Conservator, Monmouthshire Museums Service

Phil Wensley, Museums Standards and Performance Officer, MALD

Annette French, Accreditation Manager, Arts Council England

#### **8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

- Monmouthshire Museums Service Collections Development Policy
  - Monmouthshire Museums Service Collections Documentation Policy
  - Monmouthshire Museums Service Care and Conservation Policy
  - Monmouthshire Museums Service Environmental Sustainability Policy
  - Abergavenny Museum Access Statement
  - Caldicot Castle Access Statement
  - Chepstow Museum Access Statement
  - The Nelson Museum and Local History Centre, Monmouth Access Statement
- All proposed for endorsement.

#### **9. AUTHOR:**

Rachael Rogers, Curator Abergavenny Museum

#### **10. CONTACT DETAILS:**

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