

## Decision under Delegated Powers

### Officer Requesting Decision

Kevin Stanley – Leisure Contract and Business Manager

### Officer Making the Decision

Sylvia Wright – Head of Leisure and Culture

### Recommendation

- To enter into a new 25-year museum partnership agreement with Leicestershire County Council


### Reason

- The original museum partnership agreement ends in March 2024 and requires renewing to ensure that the Charnwood Museum can continue to operate.

### Authority for Decision

Under section 8.3 (Item 6) of the constitution the Head of Leisure & Culture has delegated authority to manage Charnwood Museum.

### Decision and Date

  
14.10.2022.

### Background

In 1999 the Council entered into a partnership agreement with Leicestershire County Council's Museum service for the operation of the newly created Charnwood Museum.

Charnwood Museum is situated in Queen's Hall, the former Victorian swimming baths for Loughborough. Built in 1897 to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, they were a gift to the town by Alderman Joseph Griggs who became the first Mayor of Loughborough.

The swimming pool closed in 1975 with the opening of the new Leisure Centre on Browns Lane and in 1980 the Borough Council turned the space into a general function hall.

Under the partnership agreement the day-to-day operation of the museum and the provision selection, deployment, and control of front of house staff and equipment is the responsibility of the Director of Finance, Governance and Contracts of the Borough Council.

The Head of Service, Communities & Wellbeing at the County Council is required to provide all curatorial services including collections acquisition and management, interpretation, and display matters.

All front of house staff directly employed in connection with the museum are employees of the Borough Council with associated professional staff who be employed by the County Council.

The partnership agreement has been fully reviewed and amended where identified with advice from the Councils' legal services and input from County Council officers. A reciprocal process is being undertaken by the County Council.

The Charnwood Museum is a key factor within the Councils current corporate strategy under its "Thriving Economy" and "Your Council" banners.

Service level operational targets include: -

- Continue to deliver and operate Charnwood Museum in line with resources, delivering an engaging visitor attraction and experience through a varied programme of exhibitions and events through achievement of M-1 KPI
- Develop appropriate Partnership Agreement with LCC to support the next 25yr partnership for the delivery of Charnwood Museum and the services delivered.

### **Comments from HR**

N/A

### **Financial Implications**

The Council has budgeted to operate the Charnwood Museum within its MTFS medium term financial strategy which ensures the Council can fulfil its obligations under the existing partnership agreement and therefore the renewal agreement from 2024, the renewal agreement includes appropriate break clause which allows either party to cancel the partnership should the position change in the future.

## Risk Management

Risk Identified	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Risk Management Actions Planned
Partnership agreement is not renewed	Remote (1)	Significant (2)	Med (2)	The Council is currently committed to operating a museum service. The partnership agreement has safeguards built in to enable both parties to withdraw should the situation change in the future.
Not entering into a new agreement in a timely manner	Remote (1)	Significant (2)	Med (2)	The authority to renew the partnership is being sought well in advance to ensure both parties have necessary time to adhere to the relevant process.

Key Decision:

Yes

Background Papers:

Partnership Agreement

