



Leicester
City Council

**MEETING OF THE HERITAGE, LEISURE AND SPORT SCRUTINY
COMMISSION**

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 1 MAY 2013
TIME: 5:30 pm
**PLACE: THE FOUNTAIN ROOM - GROUND FLOOR, TOWN HALL,
TOWN HALL SQUARE, LEICESTER**

Members of the Commission

Councillor Dr Barton (Chair)
Councillor Naylor (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Fonseca, Grant, Joshi Kamal and Newcombe,

Members of the Commission are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business listed overleaf.

for Monitoring Officer

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PUBLIC SESSION

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are asked to declare any interests they may have in the business on the agenda, and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to them.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 April 2013 have been circulated and Members are asked to confirm them as a correct record.

4. PETITIONS

The Director of Change and Programme Management to report on the receipt of any petitions submitted in accordance with the Council's procedures

5. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS, STATEMENTS OF CASE

The Director of Change and Programme Management to report on the receipt of any questions, representations and statements of case submitted in accordance with the Council's procedures.

6. BELGRAVE HALL AND GARDENS REVISED PROJECT

Appendix A

The Director of Culture and Neighbourhoods submits a report that sets out how the proposed changes to Belgrave Hall and Gardens have been revised in light of consultations, and confirms completion of the Equalities Impact Assessment.

Officers will provide a PowerPoint presentation to the Scrutiny Commission, by way of introducing the item.

The Scrutiny Commission is asked to note the report and the presentation and provide any comments that they see fit to the Executive.

7. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Executive report to Scrutiny

Scrutiny Commission: Heritage, Leisure and Sport

Date of scrutiny committee: 1 May 2013

Belgrave Hall and Gardens revised project

Lead executive decision maker:

Assistant Mayor for Heritage, Leisure and Sport

Lead director: Director of Culture and Neighbourhoods



City Mayor

1. Summary

The original report on the proposed changes to Belgrave Hall and Gardens, which was approved in May 2012, stated there would be consultation with local residents, heritage organisations and local businesses, and an Equalities Impact Assessment.

This new report sets out how the proposals have been revised in the light of these consultations, and confirms completion of the Equalities Impact Assessment.

2. I have consulted the following people about this decision:

A range of groups and organisations as set out in the report.

3. I have received the following financial, legal and other advice

3.1 Financial implications

From 2013/14 this proposal will make overall full year savings of £40k per annum compared with the current 2012/13 budget of £169k. These will be reprioritised towards a more effective reconfiguration of service delivery at Belgrave Hall. The savings arise mainly through a reduction in the operational staffing costs.

The savings in 2013/14 and 2014/15 will also be re-invested in the service. The revised recommendations form part of this reinvestment.

The part year savings in 2012/13 were used as part of the match funding for the capital improvement works to the Hall with an estimated total cost of £265k.

Colin Sharpe, Head of Finance, City Development and Neighbourhoods, ext 29 7390

3.2 Legal implications

1. In considering these proposals the Council is required to undertake appropriate consultation and an Equalities Impact Assessment. The Council is required to consider the responses to the consultation and EIA when making its decision.
2. The basis of the ownership and title of the Hall will need to be investigated during the consideration of the proposals outlined in the briefing, as the status of the hall (for example whether it is held on trust for the benefit of the City and its residents) may have implications for the proposals. The Council will need to ensure that these are considered on a "due diligence" exercise in order to ensure the terms by which we hold the property are not breached.
3. The terms of any existing funding arrangements will need to be considered in order to ensure that there is no risk to the Council in terms of clawback or repayment of funds in the event of adoption of the proposals set out in the briefing. The terms of any possible future funding – including any repayment provisions – will need to be considered in order to ensure that the requirements and outputs of funding

arrangements can be achieved.

John McIvor, Team Leader (Property and Development) Legal Services, ext 29 7035

3.3.Climate Change Implications

The proposals outlined in the report will have positive climate change implications for both the city council and the citywide carbon footprint. The reduction in number of days which the museum is open will reduce the energy used onsite and therefore reduce carbon emissions. A travel plan is planned for Belgrave Hall which will help mitigate any climate change impacts from increased travel to the site on events days.

The changes to these proposals following the recent public consultation have no significant climate change implications.

Charlotte Wood, Senior Environmental Consultant (Climate Change), Environment Team,
29 8174

Belgrave Hall and Gardens revised project following consultation

1. Introduction

The original report on the proposed changes to Belgrave Hall and Gardens, which was approved in May 2012, stated there would be consultation with local residents, heritage organisations and local businesses, and an Equalities Impact Assessment of the proposals.

This new report sets out how the proposals have been revised in the light of these consultations, confirms completion of the Equalities Impact Assessment, and seeks approval to continue with the project in its revised form.

1.1. Decision and communications timetable

Date	Action
18 May 2012	City Mayor briefing note approved
26 June 2012	Decision note signed by City Mayor and published on the Council web-site with the briefing note as background papers Press announcement and coverage
June 2012– February 2013	Consultation period
8 August 2012	Presentation to Heritage Leisure and Sport Scrutiny Committee Press coverage
4 September 2012	Public Executive announcement
27 November 2012	Belgrave and Latimer Wards Community Meeting
10 April 2013	Revised plan presented to Assistant City Mayor for approval
1 May 2013	Presentation of revised plan to Heritage Leisure and Sport Scrutiny Committee

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment

The Equalities Impact Assessment considers the impact of the proposed changes on certain protected groups or people with protected characteristics. It sets out how these impacts can be mitigated and provides an action plan to do this. The EIA is summarised in Appendix 1.

2. Background

The initial proposals for Belgrave Hall and Gardens were developed in response to the 2012/13 Budget Strategy for Heritage Leisure and Sport. This did not propose any reductions to museums but instead stated "...we want to take a detailed look at their future development... focussed on encouraging access, improving efficiency and increasing income, maximising the benefits from key collections and providing better activities, learning and community facilities... we will seek to ensure that the future configuration of our museums costs less than the current one".

3. Reasons for the proposed changes

A new approach to Belgrave Hall and Gardens was needed because:

- It had a relatively high cost per visitor and relatively low visitor numbers, other than for special events which were well attended. Despite successive initiatives which had increased visitors, visitor numbers could not be maintained and in 2012/13 stood at

16,000 per year, the level they were in the 1990s. In contrast the service as a whole has had a significant increase in visitors since then.

- Displays and presentation were unsatisfactory. Despite successive initiatives, there has been a lack of sufficient human and financial resources for many years for adequate maintenance, redisplay or refurbishment, and there is no prospect of sufficient resources being available in future.
- Marketing and advertising budgets for the site were similarly restricted.
- The building is largely unheated. The environment is too humid for many types of museum objects, and the cold affects staff and visitors, but the high cost of installing heating cannot be justified by the visitor numbers.
- Alternative management options have been explored without success. Involving volunteers, or even voluntary management, is still possible, but the site needs to be more sustainable and in better order for this to happen if desired in future.
- Members are committed to keeping all museum service sites open.

4. Original proposals

In the light of the above, it made sense to continue to provide a satisfactory public service whilst reducing the cost per visitor, and generating more income, so the overall cost to the council is reduced. This could only be done by reprioritising the £40,000 budget for public opening. This meant reducing opening times, from 5 days per week February – October, (rising to 7 days per week in school holidays), to opening for special events only, but compensating for this with a better events programme and better advertising to attract more people to each event. As more income was generated, it could eventually be used to increase opening hours again if required.

It was also important to improve overall presentation by refurbishing the house, and also to provide better facilities for income generation to support this new approach. Both have been made possible by Arts Council funding towards a £265,000 capital project.

The original proposals were as follows:

4.1. Treat Belgrave Hall and Gardens as a heritage site rather than a museum

The original briefing note proposed that Belgrave Hall and Gardens, together with the Castle, the Magazine, and Wygston's House, would become a new heritage site group:

- With at least ten publicly advertised events and/or guided tours per year
- Of which at least four per site would be free admission, others to be charged for
- Profit-making activities would be developed over and above these ten events
- The profits would be used to support the rest of the service
- Alternative sustainable uses would be sought that enabled continued public access
- They would also have online and mobile promotion and interpretation

4.2. Specific plans for Belgrave Hall and Gardens

The briefing note then set out the specific plans for Belgrave Hall and Gardens:

- Cease regular public access, but eventually aim for up to 10,000 visits per year to public events, plus 5,000 attendances per year at income-generating events
- Focus public opening on special events, and improve publicity
- Provide additional facilities to support income-generation
- Replace items from the museum collections with furnishings that can be used
- Display Gimson and Arts and Crafts furniture at New Walk Museum
- Recruit a commercial development officer (to support all museum sites)
- Improve presentation to show as a high quality period house with fresh, attractive interiors, rather than traditional museum room settings
- Maintain the integrity of the historic building
- Maintain excellent historic gardens and continue to develop them for events, volunteer and community projects
- Enable c.£139,500 Arts Council funding to be drawn down to deliver the plan
- Eventually reduce the cost to the council of the service at Belgrave Hall
- Keep the building used and well-maintained, cost-effectively and efficiently, whilst leaving open the possibility of increased public access in future
- Maintaining the Belgrave Hall stable block craft village incubator units
- Accommodate displaced staff amongst the overall museums team
- Explore closer joint working with Cross Corners Arts Centre, which shares the site
- Include Belgrave Hall and Gardens and Cross Corners Arts Centre in joint marketing with the Great Central Railway/Soar Valley Corridor Tourist attractions

5. Consultations and Communications

Meaningful consultation, proportionate to the scale of the proposed changes, was initially scheduled from June to August 2012, and was then extended to February 2013.

5.1. June – August 2012

Consultees	Methods
Leicester Civic Society	Meeting with Stuart Bailey (chair) E-mail
Friends of Leicester & Leicestershire Museums	Meeting with Kate Skoczylas (chair) E-mail
Cross Corners Art Centre/Mellor Primary School	E-mail Phone conversation with Karen Hammond, Head Teacher, and discussions during a visit to Cross Corners by the City Mayor and Executive members attended by the Head of Arts and Museums
Leicestershire and Rutland Gardens Trust	E-mail
English Heritage	E-mail
Arts Council England (Responsible for museums)	E-mail and numerous conversations
Companies based in the Belgrave Hall stable block business units.	E-mails
Ward councillors	Meeting with Cllr John Thomas and Cllr Rashmikant Joshi E-mails
Site staff	Meeting with Staff E-mails
Heritage Leisure and Sport Scrutiny Commission	Presentation 8 August

5.2. November 2012

Consultee	Method
Leicester Museums Consultation Forum	Meeting 21 November
Belgrave Hall Conservation Area Society	Meeting 22 November
Belgrave and Latimer Wards Community Meeting	Meeting 27 November

5.3. February 2012

Consultee	Method
Belgrave Business Association	Meeting 15 February
Belgrave Hall Conservation Area Society	2 nd meeting 12 February
Leicester Museums Consultation Forum	2 nd meeting 25 February

In addition, on 5 March the Heritage Leisure and Sport Scrutiny Commission received a verbal update from the Head of Arts and Museums.

In addition, there has been positive and negative press coverage ever since the decision note was publicised by a press-release in June. Letters and emails have also been received from September 2012, several council questions have been asked, and in March there was negative coverage in the Leicester Citizen, the Journal of the Leicester Civic Society.

5.4. Petition from Belgrave Hall Conservation Area Society

This was submitted on 24 January 2013 with 165 city residents' signatures and 30 non-city residents. The petition stated that "We the undersigned are opposed to the plans to close Belgrave Hall and Gardens as a public museum and hereby call upon Sir Peter Soulsby and Leicester City Council to reverse this decision".

It was dealt with following the guidelines of the Council's petition scheme for petitions with less than 750 signatures. However we understand more signatures were collected after it was handed in.

The Chair of the Heritage, Leisure and Sport Scrutiny Commission approved the report on the petition and a response was sent to the lead petitioner, which reflected the current report.

5.5. Consultation Responses

The responses to the consultation, and feedback from the general public were varied.

Many people either support the proposals or understand the need for change, and see this as a positive step forward to increase Belgrave Hall's financial sustainability, efficiency and effectiveness in a difficult economic climate. Suggestions for public events and income generating activities have come forward and there are indications that there is potential for developing volunteering at the site.

However, many others have expressed significant concern about the changes, especially people connected with the immediate area. This is primarily because of a perception that Belgrave Hall is "closing" or that the proposed reduction in access to the general public is too radical. Free admission and continuing access to the gardens are particularly valued. There is also concern about the balance between income generation activities and maintaining

public access to the overall heritage site. Belgrave Hall Conservation Area Society has been particularly active in campaigning against the proposals, including submitting the petition described above. At the Belgrave and Latimer Ward Community meeting a vote was also carried, to request that “the City Mayor keeps Belgrave Hall open for free during the summer months.”

The Heritage Leisure and Sport Scrutiny Commission has welcomed the proposals. However it asked for updates on progress and is keen to monitor their effect.

The main concerns to emerge, and our responses, are as follows:

5.5.1. Desire to retain the status quo

Concerns expressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belgrave Hall should be returned to being a traditional museum, with free admission, regular opening hours, museum objects and room settings as before • For 75 years we have been told that Belgrave hall is a “museum”. Now we are suddenly told it never was • The statement from council that it doesn’t need to fill the hall with items from the museum collection is not accepted • If footfall was increased the increased annual visitors would make the hall viable
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Our responses	<p><i>It is no longer viable to maintain displays of museum collections in room settings, and without significant new revenue funding, this situation will not change. However over the coming months we will be developing new interpretation for the house so that visitors can enjoy and learn about it.</i></p> <p><i>The museum/historic house terminology <u>is</u> confusing. Historic houses with room settings have traditionally been called museums, especially when they are part of a museum service, or are technically accredited museums under the national scheme. The proposed change to “heritage site” is because it will no longer primarily display museum collections. The term is therefore more appropriate.</i></p> <p><i>We have tried to increase visitor numbers for many years but without significant and sustained new investment this is not possible.</i></p>
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5.5.2. Perception that Belgrave Hall is “closing”

Concerns expressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Belgrave Hall has closed to the general public” • Loss of a local amenity for the immediate neighbourhood • All the city’s museums should be kept open • It says on the website Belgrave Hall is “open for special events only” • The Hall is closed, the doors locked and the public shut out.
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Our responses	<p><i>The proposal is not to close, but to open for special events. The annual programme is available on our website and our service’s April - June “Whats On” brochure is now available. A separate Belgrave Hall and Gardens brochure will shortly be issued. The first garden event, on 3 April, was successful and attracted around 300 visitors. The average for similar types of event last year was around 200. As our new events programme continues we hope that this perception about loss of amenity will change.</i></p>
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5.5.3. Opening hours, free admission and special events

Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instead of 273 days of unrestricted access to hall and gardens per
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expressed	<p>year we have been offered a list of 33 events only 10 of which are free to the public.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perception that only ten events would be free and some would cost up to £40 to get into. • Perception that the site was open more than it actually has been for some years and that more individuals regularly visited every week than was the case • Perception that regular visitors would be unable to visit regularly or would be no longer able to come. • Regular opening times were important, not opening for special events only, especially at weekends and holidays • Need for continued free access, especially for people living in the immediate neighbourhood so they can “drop in” • Events should be affordable for people on restricted incomes • The public should be able to go in the gardens when an event is on for free • Access to the gardens is more important than access to the house • Is open access to the gardens on a daily basis possible? • Suggestion of admission charges for non-residents and free entry for residents
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Our responses	<p><i>Over 40 events have been planned so far this year, and for a significant majority free access to the gardens will be possible. The list referred to was provided as a draft, at a consultation meeting. It did not specify which events enabled free access to the gardens, only which events themselves were free to take part in.</i></p> <p><i>The list showed the total cost of a course of WEA classes, which was read by some as £40 compulsory admission for one event. We will be able to provide free admission to the general public on days when classes are held.</i></p> <p><i>The number of visitors under the previous opening arrangements who came more than once a week was very small. The 40 days when the site is open mean that people will be able to visit frequently if they wish.</i></p> <p><i>We agree that regular opening times are important and that the current advertising mainly promotes each special event. We have tried to include regular patterns, and we will improve this in future brochures. For 2014/15 we will plan our events so there is a regular pattern of opening times.</i></p> <p><i>Priority has been given to opening just the garden as much as possible. Since it is a walled garden with a pond it needs to be supervised however.</i></p> <p><i>We are unlikely to introduce differential pricing for city and county residents. We may offer other types of concessions for certain events however.</i></p>
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5.5.4. Belgrave Hall and Gardens not a city priority

Concerns expressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perception that there was “nothing to see”, the period rooms were deliberately reduced in number, and the hall and the immediate area deliberately run down • Belgrave Hall area not included wider city initiatives e.g. Connecting Leicester • Not enough effort has gone into improving the site or attracting visitors in the past • No publicity or marketing • Perception that staff and resources have been redirected to the Richard III project
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<p>Our responses</p>	<p><i>Rather than “running down” this site, we are investing £265,000 in improvements, with the intention of improving presentation, publicity and marketing. Some of these observations help to explain why the proposals were developed in the first place</i></p> <p><i>The site has received significant investment in recent years compared with others:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>2005 –redisplay of the Hall</i> • <i>2007 –activity room changed to Community Gallery. Former Community Gallery changed to Gimson dining room display. Kitchen display improved.</i> • <i>2009 – refurbishment of the stable block creating new toilet facilities and kitchen and purchasing of events marquee</i> <p><i>However none of these halted the pattern of visitor decline.</i></p> <p><i>We will try to incorporate Belgrave Hall and Gardens into Great Central Railway/Leicester north initiatives.</i></p> <p><i>Resources have not been diverted to the Richard III project.</i></p>
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5.5.5. Access to heritage v. income generation

<p>Concerns expressed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hall and gardens have been closed to turn them into a wedding venue • £139,000 is being spent on redecoration, modern furniture and other works. It has nothing to do with improving this major historic house as a museum or ensuring it stays open to the public • Furniture for income generation uses should be sympathetic to the historic nature of the hall and not feel “institutional” • Car Parking for visitors to events may have negative impact on area • Need for a better balance between public access and income generation. • Need for more heritage interpretation of the house and immediate neighbourhood • No discussion of Belgrave Hall’s part in the Story of Leicester • Why had the hall been closed with all the revived interest in history re Richard III and the National Railway Museum Annex
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<p>Our responses</p>	<p><i>Although the Arts Council funding was awarded to increase sustainability, the proposals were developed because Belgrave Hall and Gardens is an important heritage site which should be maintained. Communication about the proposals should state this clearly.</i></p> <p><i>The proposals also include improving heritage interpretation, both at the site and on the Story of Leicester web site. This will be the priority over the coming months. The story of the Belgrave area will also be featured on the Story of Leicester website.</i></p> <p><i>A Transport Plan is being developed for the site and dedicated parking for event days is being discussed with an external organisation.</i></p>
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5.5.6. Budget cuts

<p>Concerns expressed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perception that the £40,000 was a budget “cut” rather than a saving to be redirected to implementing the proposed changes
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling that the council should provide an additional budget to enable the original opening hours to continue as well as the proposed changes of use • The Assistant Mayor should find £40,000 to keep the hall open • Has Council considered closing all museums for one day a week?
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Our responses	<p><i>The savings are not part of a specific reduction, however all council services are having to allocate their share of corporate savings targets across their budget headings, and are expected to identify ways of operating more efficiently so that the overall cost of each service area to the council is reduced. The council's financial situation is likely to deteriorate further, and so it is important that where service areas can prepare for this happening, they begin to make plans. These changes are therefore proposed since Belgrave Hall has considerable potential to generate income, which in time will reduce the net cost of the site to the council as well as helping to "future proof" the site.</i></p> <p><i>Belgrave Hall had the smallest number of visits last year, 13,000 in comparison to around 200,000 for New Walk Museum. One day a week closures have been considered in previous years, but the negative impact on visitors in comparison with the savings made is considerably more than the current proposals.</i></p>
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5.7.7. Lack of Consultation

Concerns expressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Money has been spent on the project already and displays removed • There has been no proper consultation and/or figures provided • A mistake not to consult with community on funding and helping to keep open
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Our responses	<p><i>Consultation was to be carried out initially from June – September, but it was extended for an extra five months. It was not possible to schedule some planned meetings in that timeframe, more concerns began to be raised, and we wanted to provide a proper opportunity for people to have their say. Belgrave Hall Conservation Area Society held its first meeting in September. It was important that this newly formed group had the opportunity to be consulted.</i></p> <p><i>The financial and other information related to the project is provided on the council's website in the original briefing note. It was presented to the Heritage, Leisure and Sport Scrutiny Commission on 8 August and in presentations during consultation.</i></p> <p><i>The work carried out this winter on redecoration, and essential building maintenance, required the rooms to be emptied. Continuing to display museum collections in room settings is not a viable option, and so other methods of interpretation will be developed over the coming months. If we are required to replace room settings, then they could be reintroduced to some rooms providing sufficient budget was found for their long term care and presentation. The new interpretation will open up several rooms that were not previously accessible to the public and we are confident that there will be sufficient of interest for most visitors not to seriously regret the loss of the room settings.</i></p>
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	<p><i>The main concerns arising from consultation relate to the reduction in opening hours, and the balance between income generation activities and maintaining public access to the overall heritage site. The work that done so far has no bearing on either of these.</i></p> <p><i>Belgrave Hall Conservation Area Society was invited at the November consultation meeting to become more involved in the site's activities, and a representative of Voluntary Action Leicester attended to support this intention. We are very pleased that the society has now agreed to discuss this opportunity with us.</i></p>
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6. Changes to the proposals in response to consultation

In response to the feedback from this consultation the following changes to the original plan are now proposed:

- The need to extend the consultation period has meant there will be some delay in the launch of the planned commercial activities, and so income generation this year will be slower than anticipated.
- The change of use from a “museum” to a “heritage site” needs to be formally registered, although falling into the same planning category, to avoid further confusion, and enable the planning application to be submitted for the marquee
- Publicity for the hall will include specific material promoting the income generation functions, for a targeted audience, but apart from that, it will be made clear in published material for the general public that Belgrave Hall and Gardens is a heritage site which is opened regularly as an amenity for the people of Leicester
- The new brochure for Belgrave Hall will contain full information about opening times as well as all the events programmed there
- The brochure will be distributed in the immediate neighbourhood, including to organisations for older people and people with disabilities
- Our website has been changed to make it clearer that there is a regular programme of over 40 events this year and it is easier to find the details.
- The regular weekly activities will be emphasised in our publicity as far as possible this season
- From April – September 2014 the garden will be open on the first Saturday and Sunday of every month and every Wednesday, with events held mainly on those days.
- School groups will be able to visit on Wednesdays in term time from April 2014
- More attention will be given to interpreting the history of the site and the neighbourhood than originally planned for this year. The first phase will be ready by mid-July when the house interior will be complete and open for its first event

7. Author

Appendix 1. Equalities Impact Assessment Summary for the proposals

1. Introduction

An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) is a tool which will help service providers to assess whether there are any positive or negative equality impacts on people affected by proposed changes. It is used in two circumstances, service changes and budget proposals.

The public sector's equality duty requires us to ensure that we do not discriminate against any protected group, or person with protected characteristics (see below), covered by the Equality Act 2010 when taking decisions that affect them. Potential negative impacts that we disregard or ignore could mean discrimination. We also have a duty to actively promote positive impacts that advance equality of opportunity. The protected characteristics covered by the Equality Act 2010 are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation.

The Equalities Impact Assessment identifies any positive or negative equality impacts arising from the work proposed. If there are negative impacts, this does not mean it cannot go ahead. Decision makers must have "due regard" to the findings and consider (if they do decide to go ahead) whether any mitigating actions can be taken to address negative impacts.

The EIA sets out the service user profile, the proposed change to the service, and potential equality impacts arising as a result of the proposal. It then highlights the outcome of consultation with service stakeholders about the service change proposal and likely equality impacts in relation to protected groups or people with protected characteristics. The final part identifies any changes made to the original proposal as a result of consultation and further consideration.

An action plan arising from the EIA sets out what steps can reasonably be taken as a consequence of the EIA findings.

2. EIA summary

2.1. What is the proposal?

- Belgrave Hall to cease to be a museum (i.e. primarily displaying museum collections) but to be developed and interpreted as a heritage site instead
- Regular public opening of house and gardens to be reduced from c.230 days per year, mainly spring to autumn, to at least 40

- Retain free access to the gardens for most days it is open
- Further develop income generating uses
- Events programme and marketing of site to be enhanced
- Display Arts & Crafts collections at New Walk Museum rather than Belgrave Hall

3. What are the main issues for those with protected characteristics?

3.1. Negative impacts relating to:

Age:

- Children visiting in school groups
- Older people living close by who may wish to visit since they don't have to travel far and have the cost of travelling

Disability:

- People with disabilities living close by who may wish to visit since they don't have to travel far and have the cost of travelling

3.2. Issues:

- The total number of visits in 2012/13 was 13,127
- Children may not be able to visit as part of school visits and will have less opportunity to visit with families.
- Number of visits by under 16s in 2012/13 was 4,274
- Of which number of visits by children in school groups in 2012/13 was 269
- Two further groups with protected characteristics living in the immediate vicinity of Belgrave Hall, older people and people with a disability, who are not able to travel far from home, would have fewer opportunities to visit the hall and gardens.
- Number of visits by over 60s in 2012/13 was 1,982
- Number of visits by people with disabilities in 2012/13 was 1,311 (may include the same people as under 16s and over 60s)

This could also include all children, plus older people and disabled people with mobility problems who could potentially wish to visit. Number not known.

4. Will any area of the city be more affected by the proposal than other parts?

This is a city-wide service affecting all city residents equally including all those with protected characteristics. However those living in the immediate vicinity of Belgrave Hall with the protected characteristics of age and disability may be especially affected by the reduction in and changes to a neighbourhood amenity for them.

5. Describe the revised proposal

1. Gardens open the first Saturday and Sunday in every month and Wednesdays, April - September from 2014
2. Advertise school visits Wednesdays in term time April – September from April 2014
3. Develop additional schools session at Abbey Pumping Station on Victorians at home or similar subject comparable to Belgrave Hall's schools sessions

4. Advertise opening hours and events in the local neighbourhood especially in relation to organisations for people with disabilities and older people

6. How will it affect current service users?

1. Regular opening hours including Wednesdays in term time will make it possible to advertise school sessions and for schools to book them
2. Regular opening hours rather than special events will help older people and people with disabilities with mobility problems living locally to access the site
3. New schools session at Abbey Pumping Station designed to replace the old Belgrave Hall one will enable schools to have a similar experience.
4. Advertising the opening hours and events in the local neighbourhood and with local organisations will help older people and people with disabilities with mobility problems living locally to access the site

7. EIA Action Plan

Equality Objective	Action required	Target	Officer responsible	By when?
Enable older people living close by to visit Enable people with disabilities living close by to visit	Gardens open the first weekend in every month and Wednesdays, April - September 2014-15	New opening hours advertised	Heritage manager	Spring 2014
Enable Children visiting in school groups to access the site	Advertise school visits whilst gardens open every Wednesday, April - September 2014-15	First sessions advertised	Learning Officer	Spring 2014
Enable children in school groups to experience a similar schools session to the ones previously run at Belgrave	Develop additional schools session at Abbey Pumping Station on Victorians at home or similar subject	First sessions advertised	Learning Officer	September 2013

Hall	comparable to Belgrave Hall's schools sessions			
Enable older people living close by to visit Enable people with disabilities living close by to visit	Advertise opening hours and events in the local neighbourhood especially at organisations for people with disabilities and older people	New opening hours and events advertised	Heritage Manager	Spring 2014