Executive Decision Report

Museums Display Cases and Objects Security System

Decision to be taken by: Deputy City Mayor - Culture, Leisure, Sports and Regulatory Services

Decision to be taken on: 20 March

Lead director/officer: Mike Dalzell

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: Castle
- Report author: David Orton
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- Report version number: 1

1. Summary

The purpose of this report is to release £82,000 from a £550,000 policy provision approved in the 2020/21 Capital Programme for improvements in museums. The funding will be used to install a new object security system in all Leicester museums that include high value collections items on public display.

2. Recommended actions/decision

It is recommended to approve the allocation of £82,000 from the £550,000 policy provision for improvements in museums in the 2020/21 Capital Programme.

3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement

N/A

4. Background and options with supporting evidence

The Arts & Museums Service protects objects on open display with a number of security devices linked to a central PC based system. If objects are tampered with then the devices trigger an alert that can be reacted to and investigated. The devices are compliant with requirements of Accreditation and our collections insurance provider.

The previous system operated on Windows 7 and it was known that the system would therefore not be supported from January 2023. Continuing with that system was therefore, not an option.

Removing security protection from objects and not replacing the system was also not an option as it would put objects with significant value at risk. The Service would lose Accreditation, which in turn would impact on access to funding such as Arts Council England's National Portfolio Organisation programme. The collections insurance would become invalid if sufficient protection is not provided for objects.

A procurement exercise was undertaken to identify a supplier for a new compliant system. The exercise has concluded and the cost of implementing the system proposed by the successful tenderer was £82,000. There is no service budget to pay for this but given the urgency we have proceeded to install the system which is now fully active. This report is to reimburse service budgets via the policy provision which was established for purposes such as this.

5. Detailed report

N/A

6. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

6.1 Financial implications

The proposed museums object security system replacement is expected to cost £82,000. This will be funded through a release from the Tourism & Culture policy provision in the Council's capital programme.

Marc Clawson, Senior Capital Accountant

6.2 Legal implications

It is understood that a procurement process has been undertaken – legal services can assist in issuing the contract and ensuring the contracts are in place before service commencement.

Mannah Begum, Principal Solicitor, Commercial & Contracts Legal, Ext 1423

6.3 Equalities implications

There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report. An improved security system will inevitably protect the collections which will allow people who share all protected characteristics to continue to enjoy the collections kept by our Museums Service.

Kalvaran Sandhu, Equalities Manager, Ext 6344

6.4 Climate Emergency implications

There are no significant climate emergency implications directly associated with this report.

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer Ext 37 2284

6.5 Other implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

N/A

7. Background information and other papers:

N/A

8. Summary of appendices:

N/A

9. Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No

10. Is this a "key decision"? If so, why?

No