

Committee: COMMUNITY

Agenda Item

Date: 8 June 2006

6

Title: MUSEUM SERVICE ACCESS POLICY
STATEMENT

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Item for decision

Summary

A statement of Access Policy is required for the Heritage Lottery Fund and is desirable for the government's Accreditation scheme for museums. It describes the Museum's facilities and policy for providing physical and intellectual access to all, barriers which remain and steps being taken to address these.

Recommendations

To approve the Museum Service Access Policy Statement 2006 - 11

Background Papers

- Various access policies from other museums consulted by the Visitor Services Officer
- Heritage Lottery Fund guidelines
- Accreditation Standard for UK museums

Impact

Communication/Consultation	Appropriate access advisers, groups and standards are consulted as appropriate
Community Safety	None
Equalities	Ensuring access to public areas and facilities
Finance	None
Human Rights	None
Legal implications	Ensuring and demonstrating compliance with Disability Discrimination Act
Ward-specific impacts	All (all visitors and users)
Workforce/Workplace	Museum

Situation

- 1 The Access Policy Statement defines how the Museum Service identifies and addresses issues of physical access (buildings, facilities, staff awareness) and intellectual access (provision of information in suitable formats) to meet the needs of visitors and users.
- 2 'Access assets' and work to date on accessibility are described, and issues for future attention are identified: these include ongoing re-labelling of galleries to improve visibility for the visually-impaired; a proposed Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Service inspection; and making efforts to engage hard-to-reach' audiences (through outreach as part of Heritage Quest Centre project).
- 3 Approval of the Access Policy Statement does not commit the Council to additional expenditure. Continuing improvements will be dealt with using existing resources and revenue, or through externally-funded projects (such as Heritage Quest Centre project / HLF).

Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Museum not recognised for providing accessible facilities and services by HLF, other funding bodies and users	Medium	High	Publication (on website) and adherence to Access Policy Statement, submissions to HLF and other bodies as required
Access issues may not have sufficiently high profile in planning future improvements to the Service	Medium	High	Production and adoption of the Access Policy Statement, retaining high profile for access among staff, Council, Museum Society and other stakeholders