

Appendix 1: outcomes from Heritage workshop 03 November 2022.

Revised outcomes for workshop attendees in consultation with the Portfolio Holder Cllr John Redpath and the Leader Cllr Julia McShane

Guildford Borough Council looks after some of the borough's most important listed buildings as well as over 100,000 objects in the collection. Add to this the art collection, then the wealth of the council's heritage collection can truly be seen.

For many years it has been a long-term aim of the council to improve how the public can engage with our heritage buildings and the collection of objects and artworks. There are many past plans for doing this, with the most recent culminating in 2019 with an estimated cost of £18.4million that would have relied on Heritage Lottery Funding and a huge investment by the council. This plan was not progressed.

With the change in financial fortunes of all district and borough councils it has become necessary to look at a better and more economical way to present our heritage offer. The Museum has grown over the past 125 years and now incorporates four interconnected buildings. The layout of the Museum makes it difficult to display many items in the collection and both the day to day running and maintenance costs are high.

We therefore seek to relocate the Museum and Gallery into a new space that is fit for purpose for the display of the collection, alongside a dynamic programme of exhibitions, events and activities, a positive visitor experience and associated engagement and outreach plans. This should address our challenges including diminishing resources and current facilities that do not meet the desired criteria and are not accessible to all.

With this in mind, we will develop a 10-year plan which will consider an alternative operating model for the heritage offer, including investigating the opportunities for working with a voluntary third party, to manage and display the collection. We will continue to operate the Castle and Guildhall and look after the collection of objects and artwork during any transition period.

To deliver this 10-year plan, we will investigate the feasibility and implications of taking the following key steps:

- Review the operation of the Victorian Schoolroom and the property it currently occupies.
- End the lease for the Undercroft (due for renewal in February 2023).
- Relocate the museum and art gallery provision, supported by the disposal of three of the Museum buildings (48 Quarry Street, Muniment Room and 1911 Gallery) and the re-purposing of Guildford House, ensuring the ringfencing of the capital receipt to contribute to the

procurement of a new venue. We will investigate the repurposing of the Castle Arch building of the Museum to provide necessary object storage.

- Continue with the documentation project, incorporating steps to rationalise the collection and storage requirements, including those for third parties.
- Ensure continued operation of the Guildhall and Castle with an appropriate staff structure.