

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**SAFER, STRONGER COMMUNITIES (URBAN)
CABINET MEMBER**

SOCIAL HISTORY COLLECTION DISPOSALS

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

1.1 To seek approval to dispose of 753 items from the Social History Collection in line with the agreed North Lincolnshire Museums Collections Development Policy.

1.2 The key points in this report are:

- North Lincolnshire Museums has many duplicate items.
- The collection is made up of the two separate collections of the former Glanford and Scunthorpe Borough Councils.
- Officers have identified some objects as surplus to requirements.
- We no longer want to keep these objects. They either duplicate items already on display, are not in good enough condition to display, are photocopies rather than original documents or are not relevant to the area and so fall outside the scope of the collecting areas as defined within the Collections Development Policy.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 North Lincolnshire Museums has a social history collection of around 43,000 objects. Collecting started in 1909 when Scunthorpe Museum was originally founded. We merged this collection with the Baysgarth Museum collection in 1996.

2.2 The Museums Association is asking museums to reassess their collections and how they use them. This is part of a drive to make collections more relevant and useable. This involves putting more objects on display and transferring objects no longer required to other museums.

2.3 We have now completed a comprehensive assessment of the collection. We think we should dispose of the objects in appendix one, in line with the

North Lincolnshire Museums Collections Development Policy and the Museums Association Code of Ethics.

2.4 Other Museums may be interested in conserving or displaying surplus items. The disposal procedure is:

- We agree to dispose of the items.
- We offer the objects to other accredited museums by placing and advert on the Museums Associations 'Find An Object' webpage.
- We arrange to give or sell any remaining objects, such as by returning to donor where applicable or by offering to local institutions such as local history societies and parish councils.
- We invest any proceeds in the Museum collections

2.5 Appendix one lists items that are either duplicates, are not in good enough condition to put on display or are not relevant to the area.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 The Cabinet Member is asked to approve the disposal of the items listed in appendix one.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 The council has signed up to the Museums Association Code of Ethics. This code recognises that good collections management involves the disposal of items that are duplicates, in poor condition or not relevant to the area. We have identified that all of the items on appendix 1 fall into one or more of these categories.

4.2 The items in question take up valuable space in our stores. We have identified in North Lincolnshire Museums Collections Development Policy that we need to actively collect material that will be relevant to our audiences in the future. We need to manage our collections in a dynamic way, which includes disposing of items that will never be put on display.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

5.1 None.

6. **OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)**

6.1 None.

7. **OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

7.1 Not applicable.

8. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

8.1 Professional Museum based officers have helped to draw up the list. They agree with the proposal to dispose of the items.

9. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 That the Cabinet Member agrees to dispose of the items listed in appendix 1 in line with the Museum Service's Collections Development Policy and the Museums Association's Code of Ethics

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING, SKILLS AND CULTURE

Church Square House
SCUNTHORPE
North Lincolnshire
DN15 6NL
Author: Rose Nicholson
Date: 11 August 2021

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –

- Minute 132(32) of the Asset Management, Culture and Housing Cabinet Member of 30 January 2015 – Museum Accreditation
- Museums Association Code of Ethics for Museums
- North Lincolnshire Museums Collections Development Policy