

People and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	9 January 2019
Officer	Paul Leivers, Assistant Director: Commissioning, Community Services, Partnerships and Quality
Subject of Report	Red House Museum, Christchurch
Executive Summary	<p>The Red House Museum is a museum in Christchurch. A joint agreement between Hampshire County Council, Dorset County Council and Christchurch Borough Council has featured three-way funding. With the change in administrative areas arising from local government review in Dorset new arrangements are necessary.</p> <p>The Red House Museum Joint Management Committee requested that the report for the Future Funding Arrangements for the Red House Museum be forwarded to the Scrutiny Committees of the respective authorities.</p>
Impact Assessment:	<p>Equalities Impact Assessment:</p> <p>No impact to current position</p> <p>Use of Evidence:</p> <p>The process of considering future funding and arrangements was conducted as part of the local government review budget disaggregation process.</p> <p>Budget: Dorset County Council has paid £50,000 to support the museum in 2018/19. Budget responsibilities will not transfer to Dorset Council because the museum is in the administrative area of the new Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council</p>

	<p>Risk Assessment:</p> <p>Having considered the risks associated with this decision using the County Council’s approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as: Current Risk: LOW Residual Risk LOW</p> <hr/> <p>Outcomes:</p> <p>The position sought is to ensure that the Red House Museum continues to contribute to wide range of outcomes in its new administrative area.</p> <hr/> <p>Other Implications:</p> <p>Dorset County Council has no asset management interest in the Red House Museum</p>
<p>Recommendation</p>	<p>It is recommended that the Committee notes the report attached at Appendix 1</p>
<p>Reason for Recommendation</p>	<p>To meet the request of the Red House Museum Joint Management Committee that the attached report be forwarded to the scrutiny committees of the three partner councils.</p>
<p>Appendices</p>	<p>Appendix 1 Report of the Head of Community and Leisure, Christchurch Borough Council to the Red House Museum Joint Management Committee - Future Funding Arrangements - 1 October 2018</p> <p>Appendix 2 Minutes of the meeting of the Red House Museum Joint Management Committee held on 1 October 2018</p>
<p>Background Papers</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Officer Contact</p>	<p>Name: Paul Leivers, Assistant Director: Commissioning, Community Services, Partnerships and Quality Tel: 01305 224455 Email: p.leivers@dorsetcc.gov.uk</p>

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Red House Museum is a museum in Christchurch. The governance is through a Trust of which Hampshire County Council is the sole trustee with a Joint Management Committee. A joint agreement between the County Council, Christchurch Borough Council and Hampshire County Council has operated well for many years. Funding is split three ways and the current annual contribution from each of the partners is £50,000 per annum. The Red House Museum Joint Committee comprises six elected members – two from each of the partner councils.
- 1.2 As a joint service the discussions for future arrangements between the Dorset Council and Bournemouth and Poole Council were conducted through the budget disaggregation process as for all services. The working assumption through the disaggregation discussions between Dorset County Council, and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) colleagues had been that with Local Government Reorganisation the Dorset County Council interest would novate to the new BCP Council. However, subsequent legal advice was that the appropriate way to proceed was for a new joint agreement for the three current partner councils to be signed and for the County Council to then serve notice of termination (as it is entitled to do in the agreement). A new agreement was required because the old one had expired. This was driven by the fact that the museum would no longer be in the administrative area of Dorset Council and it would be in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council area. This achieved the same outcome for 1 April 2019 albeit by a slightly different route than originally envisaged. The required six-month notice of termination of the joint agreement has been given.

2. Reason for this report to the People and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 2.1 A report to the Red House Museum Joint Committee meeting on 1 October 2018 summarised the position. A copy of that report (slightly amended) is attached at Appendix 1. The minutes of that meeting are attached at Appendix 2. The Joint Committee requested that the report for the Future Funding Arrangements for the Red House Museum be forwarded to the Scrutiny Committees of the respective authorities. The resolution from that meeting was:

“RESOLVED that:

1. this committee regretted that there has been limited involvement either by the Committee Chairman, or Portfolio Holders as to the future of the Red House Museum under reorganisation;
2. regretted the lack of clarity around the legal position;
3. requested clarification of discussions with Hampshire County Council;
4. requested a report as to the legal position from Legal officers either of Dorset County Council, Hampshire County Council or Christchurch Borough Council;
5. recommended that discussions take place between responsible officers and appropriate elected members at the earliest opportunity; and
6. the report be noted.”

3. Conclusion

This report is provided at the request of the Red House Museum Joint Committee for the consideration of this Committee. It is believed that the arrangements and action taken to date effectively transfer the interests of the County Council to new arrangements to

facilitate the continued progress of the Red House Museum as an asset for the local community and tourist attraction.

Helen Coombes
Transformation Lead for Adult and Community Services
December 2018

**RED HOUSE MUSEUM JOINT
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

1 October 2018

Future Funding Arrangements

1. PURPOSE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Report Type:	Public Report for information
Purpose of Report:	To explain the arrangements for future funding of the Museum in the light of forthcoming Local Government Reorganisation.
Recommendations:	It is RECOMMENDED that: (a) The report is noted
Wards:	Borough-wide
Contact Officer:	Judith Plumley (Head of Community and Leisure)

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. At the last meeting of the Joint Management Committee officers were asked to prepare a report for this meeting which would explain the arrangements for future funding following Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).
- 2.2. In May 2018 the Parliamentary Process to establish two new unitary authorities in Dorset April 2019 was concluded.
- 2.3. The two new unitary authorities will be made up as follows:
 - (a) Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP)
 - (b) Dorset Council (comprising the existing Borough/District Council areas of Weymouth and Portland, West Dorset, North Dorset, Purbeck, East Dorset and Dorset County Council)
- 2.4. The functions currently delivered by Christchurch Borough Council and Dorset County Council in the Christchurch area will, from April 2019, be delivered by the unitary authority of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole pending any future service restructuring at a later date.

3. CURRENT AND FUTURE FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

- 3.1. The Red House Museum is owned by Hampshire County Council (HCC) with the revenue budget being shared between Hampshire County Council, Dorset County Council and Christchurch Borough Council since 1976.
- 3.2. With effect from 1 November 2014 HCC transferred its arts, museums and heritage services to the Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT) and granted to the Trust a licence of the Red House Museum for a term of 35 years which includes the loan to the Trust of items within the Museum.

- 3.3. Under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 the three authorities have agreed to provide funding to the Trust towards the revenue cost of operating the museum which in the case of the funding from Dorset CC and Christchurch BC is to be applied solely for the Museum and to establish a partnership funding steering group to monitor and review the application of their respective funding to the Trust under a Partnership Funding Agreement.
- 3.4. The current agreement between the three authorities requires them to work together to deliver the benefits that the Red House Museum provides to the local community.
- 3.5. Dorset County Council and Christchurch Borough Council currently contribute £50,000pa each towards the operational running costs of the Museum and Hampshire County Council contributes approx. £100,000pa although no authority is committed to this beyond each financial year. Each authority must notify the others within 10 working days of their budget setting meeting if funding has been reduced or is not available for the following year.
- 3.6. The agreement allows for any of the funding authorities to give written notice of 6 months to the others that it will be terminating the agreement. As a result, the funding for the museum has always been somewhat precarious.
- 3.7. Although preparations for LGR are well underway, the fact that the Secretary of State's decision was somewhat later than had originally been intended meant that the implementation of actions required to set up the new authority have been somewhat delayed. As a result the current plan is that all relevant staff and functions will transfer to the new authority on Vesting Day (April 1st 2019) and that all functions will continue to operate as they have done previously until a programme of transformation can be planned and implemented.
- 3.8. What structure and emphasis the new authority takes will largely depend on the appointment of the Chief Executive and the election of the new Council once formed in May 2019; it is difficult at this time to determine what sort of cultural offer the new council will want to take forward.
- 3.9. Until such time as that vision has been agreed and an implementation plan established to set up new staffing and service structures, the existing agreement for the JMC at the Red House will apply, albeit that DCC will terminate their involvement and BCP will be named in their stead.
- 3.10. Officers from Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset have been meeting regularly on a number of themed work streams including one for Culture which includes museums, heritage, arts and libraries in order to plan for a smooth transition to the new authority on Day One.
- 3.11. Because of the timescales, no planning for service restructuring has been possible.
- 3.12. It has been necessary to disaggregate budgets, functions and staff from Dorset County Council to the new authority. Responsibility for funding and advising the Red House Museum which has previously been with Dorset County Council will transfer to BCP.
- 3.13. The new council will work with Hampshire County Council to support the museum from April 2019. The obligations of Dorset County Council under the agreement will not transfer because the museum will no longer be in the administrative area of the new Dorset Council. Consequently, Dorset County Council will withdraw from the agreement and its funding obligations will cease with effect from 1 April

2019. The interested councils have agreed this course of action through discussions in relation to budget disaggregation. From 1 April 2019, Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole Council will assume the funding obligations of Dorset County Council.

- 3.14. The existing Bournemouth and Poole Councils both have a strong cultural function, with Poole Museum, The Russell Cotes Museum and a wide range of cultural and artistic venues and events established as part of their cultural offer.
- 3.15. It is too early to say what the vision of the new authority will be when it comes to cultural services but senior officers, supported by the leaders of Bournemouth and Poole Councils, recently submitted an 'Expression of Interest' to Government for funding towards the production of a new cultural strategy for the whole of the new BCP area. Such a vision does not imply that cultural services will be reduced in the new authority area moving forward but of course this will depend on the overall ability of the new council to meet all of its statutory responsibilities and set a realistic budget.
- 3.16. Proposals are also under way to develop a higher quality cultural vision for the new BCP area, this is being led by the Chief Executive of Borough of Poole and facilitated by Arts Council England (ACE).
- 3.17. Following 1st April, it is anticipated that as the new council becomes established, services restructured and budgets more realistically prepared, it will become apparent what ongoing support can be given towards the future operation of the Red House Museum and all of the other museums and cultural services in the new authority area. In the meantime, the separate funding streams for 2018/19 from Dorset and Christchurch have been combined into the base budget for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council for 2019/20 albeit that this is still subject to ratification in the same way as the Christchurch Budget would be in the autumn.
- 3.18. Should the new authority wish to reconsider its contribution for future years, 6 months' notice will have to be given under the current agreement meaning that a decision would need to be made by October 2019. This is exactly the same as the current position.

4. IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Plan & Council Objectives

- 4.1. The matter under consideration impacts upon the Corporate Plan in the following areas:-
 - EC1 - Focus on collaboration and partnership in the delivery of services
 - EC2 - Deliver services more efficiently
 - SC2 - Promote healthy and active lifestyles

Legal

- 4.2. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Environmental

- 4.3. There are no environmental implications arising from this report

Financial and Risk

- 4.4. There are no financial implications arising from this report. There is exactly the same risk as has always been present in the funding of the Red House Museum. Each party can currently terminate its part in the funding agreement by giving 6 months' notice.

Equalities

- 4.5. There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

Consultation and Engagement

- 4.6. There is no need for consultation arising from this report.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1. From April 2019 the Red House Museum will be located in the new Unitary Authority of Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole. Christchurch Borough Council and Dorset County Council will no-longer exist.
- 5.2. Responsibility for funding will transfer to the new authority and the existing Funding Agreement will continue in the same form with BCP taking on the responsibilities and representations previously held by DCC and CBC.
- 5.3. The £100k currently grant aided to HCT for the operation of the museum has been combined into the base budget of the new authority for 2019/20.
- 5.4. Like every other service, the cultural offer which includes the Red House Museum will be reviewed by the new authority and decisions will be made about future funding. This is no different to the current funding arrangement which can be withdrawn with 6 months' notice.

Appendices:

'There are no appendices to this report.'

Background Papers:

None.

CHRISTCHURCH BOROUGH COUNCIL
RED HOUSE MUSEUM JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 01 October 2018 at 2.30 pm

Present:

Cllr Mrs D Jones (Christchurch Borough Council) – Chairman
Cllr N C Geary (Christchurch Borough Council) – vice Chairman

Present: Cllr M White (Hampshire County Council), Cllr P R A Hall (Dorset County Council) and Cllr D C Jones (Dorset County Council)

Also in attendance: Ms L Bullivant (Hampshire Culture Trust), Ms V de Wit (Museums Advisor for Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole, Dorset County Council), G Foyle (Community and Recreation Team Leader, Christchurch Borough Council), J Plumley (Head of Community and Leisure, Christchurch Borough Council) and S Roxby (Democratic Services and Elections Administrative Support Officer, Christchurch Borough Council)

Apologies: Cllr F Carpenter (Hampshire County Council)

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 4 June 2018 were confirmed as a correct record.

Manager's Report

A report was submitted, a copy of which had been circulated to each member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'A' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The Museum Manager presented a report updating Members on the activities and events at the Museum and in addition the Committee were advised of the exhibitions which had been held over the last few months.

The Committee was advised that there had been a significant increase in visitor numbers to the Museum and that the 4U2 Touch Exhibition had been very popular with the visitors who had sensory deprivation.

The Museum Manager informed Members that both staff and volunteers worked together as a team. Social events had been organised to update the volunteers and Friends of the Museum and it was important to recognise that without their help it would be difficult to undertake all the events and activities.

Members were further informed that a £50,000 Heritage Lottery grant had been applied for funding a post and refurbishment of the Courtyard Gallery which was a key project at the Museum.

A Member enquired whether there were any articles held in storage at Winchester and was informed that the Museum Manager would report back to advise which items were stored there.

The Chairman expressed thanks to the support given by the Friends and Volunteers of the Red House Museum.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Financial Report

A Report was submitted, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'B' to these Minutes in the Minute book.

The Museum Manager presented a report which gave an overview of the Museum's Financial Report and Budget figures.

Members were informed that the Venue Community Social Impact expenditure budget figure had previously been reported as 'Better Life Chances'.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Future Funding Arrangements

A report was submitted, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'C' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The Head of Community and Leisure gave Members an overview for future funding of the Museum in the light of forthcoming Local Government Reorganisation and it was confirmed that an allocation has been made in the draft budget for the contributions from CBC and DCC to be paid by the new Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Unitary Council (BCP).

Members were updated that Dorset County Council had formally served their six month notice to withdraw from the ten year agreement as funding responsibility would transfer to the new Unitary Authority of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole from April 2019.

Members were informed that recent discussions had taken place for the provision of a £86,000 fund for the development of a Cultural Enquiry including the role of culture in economic development and health and wellbeing within the new BCP area.

Members questioned funding arrangements and were informed that Hampshire County Council (HCC) as the owner of the Red House Museum provided a financial contribution of £100,000 and not £50,000 as detailed within the report.

Members raised concerns regarding communication with HCC Members in respect of funding arrangements for the Red House Museum. Further concerns were raised that the committee had not seen the final version of the ten year funding agreement before it had been signed.

The Committee requested that the report for the Future Funding Arrangements for the Red House Museum be forwarded to the Scrutiny Committees of the respective authorities as agreed at the previous meeting.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. this committee regretted that there has been limited involvement either by the Committee Chairman, or Portfolio Holders as to the future of the Red House Museum under reorganisation;**
- 2. regretted the lack of clarity around the legal position;**
- 3. requested clarification of discussions with Hampshire County Council;**
- 4. requested a report as to the legal position from Legal officers either of Dorset County Council, Hampshire County Council or Christchurch Borough Council;**
- 5. recommended that discussions take place between responsible officers and appropriate elected members at the earliest opportunity; and**
- 6. the report be noted.**

Dorset County Museums Advisory Service Report

A report was submitted, a copy of which had been circulated to each member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'D' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The Museums Advisor for Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole provided an overview to the Committee on the Dorset County Museum Advisory Service.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

The meeting ended at 3.42 pm

CHAIRMAN