

The Executive**On****12 September 2006**Report Title: **Bruce Castle Museum Accreditation Programme**Report of: **Assistant Chief Executive (Access)**

Wards(s) affected: White Hart Lane

Report for: Decision

1. Purpose

1.1 To seek members approval of the revised Acquisitions and Disposal Policy, for Bruce Castle Museum incorporating a mission and aims statement. This is in line with the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council's (MLA) new Accreditation standards.

2. Introduction by Executive Member

2.1 Ensuring we meet the new Accreditation standards is important for the future development of the Museum and will greatly improve our chances of accessing external funding.

3. Recommendations

3.1 To adopt the revised Acquisitions and Disposal Policy, which incorporates a mission and aims statement for Bruce Castle Museum.

3.2 To seek accreditation for the Museum by November 2006.

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Chief Executive (Access)**Contact Officer: **Diana Edmonds
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4. Executive Summary

The Museums Registration Scheme was revised and 're-launched' by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (successor to the Museums and Galleries Commission) in November 2004 under a new name -The Accreditation Scheme for Museums in the United Kingdom. Bruce Castle will be applying shortly for accreditation under the scheme.

It is a requirement of the new Accreditation Scheme that the Museum's Mission and Aims Statement and its Acquisitions and Disposal Policy should be ratified by the Museum's governing body (i.e. the Executive) . Accreditation will contribute to the Council's grading for its Comprehensive Performance Assessment 2006.

The Accreditation scheme sets nationally agreed standards, widely endorsed by a range of organisations, Including the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS); the local government associations; The Audit Commission; the Museums Association (the professional body representing museums); and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

5. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development (if applicable)

5.1 The Museums, Libraries and Archives Councils (MLA) new accreditation standards scheme.

6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- Bruce Castle Museum: Acquisitions and Disposal Policy 2001 – 2006.
- Museums Libraries and Archives Council: Accreditation Scheme for Museums in the United Kingdom, 2004: The Accreditation Standard.

7. Background

Bruce Castle Museum opened in 1906 under Tottenham Urban District Council, and was the local museum for Tottenham. In 1965, the Museum became the local history museum for the London Borough of Haringey, following the merger of its predecessor authorities of Tottenham, Wood Green and Hornsey.

Bruce Castle Museum became a Museums & Galleries Commission fully registered Museum on 18th May 1994. This nationally recognised scheme implies compliance with accepted minimum standards and gives the Museum access to various benefits including grant-aid.

In 1992, a mission and aims statement for Bruce Castle Museum was first developed, this was reviewed and amended inline with earlier submissions to the Registration Scheme. In 2001 the Council formally approved Bruce Castle Museums last Acquisitions and Disposals policy. The Museum successfully re-registered under Phase 2 of the Scheme in 2001.

The new scheme incorporates a missions and aims statement requirement which needs to be adopted by the governing bodies.

8. Description

The overall aim of the Museum Accreditation Scheme is to identify minimum standards to inform museum best practice and service delivery. Also to encourage continued improvement through informed planning. Bruce Castle Museum has been invited to re-register under a rolling programme of five years, in years 2005 - 2006.

The new scheme has three aims:

- To encourage all museums and galleries to achieve agreed minimum standards in museum management, user services, visitor facilities and collections management
- To foster confidence in museums as bodies which (a) hold collections in trust for society and (b) manage public resources appropriately
- To reinforce a shared ethical basis for all bodies which meet the definition of a 'museum'.

Bruce Castle Museum has made an application for Museum Accreditation, incorporating its Mission and Aims Statement in the Acquisitions and Disposal Policy. This continues to affirm the commitment of Bruce Castle Museum to developing its audiences and working with its communities. In addition, this facilitates the development of its collecting policies and learning facilities, in line with the Council's Strategic Aims to promote access for all.

Recognition under the scheme will indicate that a museum meets approved standards in the key areas of museum management, collections care and visitor services.

Achieving this accreditation status will greatly improve Haringey's chances, and foster a spirit of confidence to potential donors. Eligibility for grant aid and awards will increase as accreditation status is taken into account by bodies, such as the National Heritage Memorial Fund, which administers the Heritage Lottery Fund.

It is a requirement under the Accreditation Scheme that the Acquisition and Disposal policy should be regularly reviewed and published within a five year period. The date of the next review for Bruce Castle Museum would be no later than 2011.

Update

In a recent MLA press release dated the 16th of August, the culture service assessment for councils for 2006 includes a performance indicator based on the levels of museums' accreditation

9. Comments of the Head of Legal Services

The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on this report. The legislative framework is contained in the body of the report and there are no further legal comments to make.

10. Comments of the Director of Finance

There are no additional financial burdens as a result of adopting this revised policy, however if it isn't adopted it could limit future access to funding and donations.