

APPENDIX B

LEGAL CONTEXT SUMMARY FOR LIBRARIES, MUSEUMS, ARCHIVES AND LEARNING SECTOR

The provision of cultural, educational and support services are informed by a range of legislation and national standards as detailed below.

Libraries

- National legislation regarding libraries and museums is outlined in the 1964 Public Libraries and Museums Act. The local authority is statutorily obliged to deliver a 'comprehensive and efficient' library service which it determines according to local need and analysis.

Museums

- Under the 1964 Public Libraries and Museums Act, a local authority may "provide and maintain museums and art galleries within its administrative area or elsewhere in England or Wales, and may do all such things as may be necessary or expedient for or in connection with the provision or maintenance thereof". Although there is no statutory requirement to provide a museum, heritage or arts services, as an accredited service the Council is obliged to adhere to the professional standards set out by Arts Council England, through its nationally recognised accreditation scheme.

Adult Education

- The Education Act 1996 confers a power on the local authority to provide adult education. Section 15B of the Act states that the local authority "may secure the provision for their area of full-time or part-time education suitable to the requirements of persons who have attained the age of 19, including provision for persons for other areas". This includes a range of training and leisure provision.

Records Office of Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland (ROLLR)

- The 1962 Local Government (Records) Act and the 1972 Local Government Act cover provision of an archive service and proper arrangements for records generated by the constituent organizations. The 1958 and 1967 Public Records Acts, the 1978 Parochial Registers and Records Measure, and the 1924 Law of Property (Amendment) Act stipulate which records need to be retained. The Human Rights Act 1998, the Data Protection Act 1998, the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 cover the rights of citizens to access the information held.

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