

**REPORT TO CABINET – 3 June 2008****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES****MELTON CARNEGIE MUSEUM****PART A****Purpose**

1. To inform Cabinet of the County Council's success in obtaining a grant of £969,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the purpose of extending and developing Melton Carnegie Museum, to obtain approval for the project and for the necessary temporary closure of the Museum during the consultation period, and to gain approval for the funding conditions.

**Recommendations**

2. It is recommended:
  - (a) That the offer of a grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund for the development of Melton Carnegie Museum be welcomed and the terms and conditions attached to the grant, detailed in paragraph 11, be noted;
  - (b) That approval be given to the temporary closure of the Museum for a period of construction of up to 12 months likely to commence in December 2008.

**Reason For Recommendations**

3. To secure funding for the improvement of the museum. Temporary closure will be necessary to enable construction work on the restricted site to be completed safely and in the most cost effective way.

### **Timetable for Decisions** (including Scrutiny)

4. Approval by mid June will enable the work to progress within the overall project timetable, with a view to completing all aspects of the development by spring 2010. Building work is likely to commence in December 2008 with a phased re opening of the museum from October 2009. Opening of the new extension and installation of the displays should be completed by the spring of 2010.

### **Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

5. The draft Sustainable Community Strategy identifies the development and promotion of the County's cultural heritage as key to supporting community cohesion and well-being. An important outcome for the Melton Mowbray Community Forum Area is that the heritage and tourism potential of the area is maximised (Final Draft, p.77).

### **Resource implications**

6. The overall budget for the development total is £1,095,000. It is made up as follows: Heritage Lottery Fund £969,000, Leicestershire County Council £100,000 Capital Programme, Melton Borough Council £20,000, Museum of Hunting Trust £5,000, Friends of Leicester and Leicestershire Museums £1,000. Additional revenue costs will be met from existing budgets.

The Director of Corporate Resources and County Solicitor have been consulted on this report.

### **Circulation Under Sensitive Issues Procedure**

7. Mr P A Roffey DL CC, Dr M O Callaghan CC, Mr J B Rhodes CC  
Mr J T Orson JP CC

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## **PART B**

### **Background**

8. Melton Carnegie Museum opened in 1977. A major refurbishment and redisplay within the existing building envelope was completed in 2002 funded by a major award from the Heritage Lottery Fund and with partnership funding from the Museum of Hunting Trust. Displays featured interpretation of fox hunting and opposition to it in the wider context of the natural, social, economic and artistic history of Melton, including the pork pie and stilton cheese industries. Since 2002 the museum has developed hands on active learning sessions for schools and a programme of activities and events for a wide range of users including local community groups. In 2005 the museum received a further grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to record impartially the impact of the Hunting Act. The museum is currently operating at capacity in terms of educational and community activities.
9. The proposal which has been awarded the funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2008 is for a two-storey extension to the existing building. This will meet the needs of a wide range of existing service users and enable future development of new audiences. It will feature additional displays to complement the existing museum on topics around contemporary rural issues linked to Melton Mowbray as the market town focus for rural communities. This is regarded as an innovative departure from the usual agricultural displays in rural museums. A community space on the first floor will for the first time provide dedicated facilities for use with school and community groups as well as volunteers. A community archive will provide facilities for local history groups, particularly those in the surrounding villages, to access and deposit locally relevant reference material and encourage long term community engagement.

### **Implications for Leicestershire County Council**

10. An appropriate Communication Strategy will be implemented in order to inform people of the planned closure of the Museum from December 2008 until December 2009. Staff will be carrying out promotional and outreach activities in local schools and with local groups during the closure.
11. The conditions required by the Heritage Lottery Fund are standard conditions. Those that the Council needs to take particular note of are:
  1. The completion date for the approved project is 31 March 2011.
  2. The County Council will continue to own the property and keep full control over what happens to it.
  3. The property is to be maintained in good repair and condition.

4. The conditions of the contract last for 25 years; should there be a failure to meet the conditions, the grant or a portion of it may be repayable to the Fund.

The remainder will be dealt with through the usual administrative procedures. The full documentation is available on request.

### **Equal Opportunities Implications**

12. An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) for the project was carried out and submitted as part of the application for funding. This includes an action plan for implementation as part of the project which will ensure that there is equal customer access to the services provided in the museum.

### **Background Papers**

Draft Sustainable Community Strategy, 2008 (especially pp.77ff)  
Love Leicestershire, Leicestershire Cultural Strategy Partnership  
Melton Local Development Framework, 2008  
Melton Borough Council, Community Strategy, 2008