

<b>Report of</b>	<b>Assistant Director of Communities</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Lucie Breadman</b> ☎ 282726
<b>Title</b>	<b>Renewal of Colchester and Ipswich Museums Services Joint Committee Agreement</b>		
<b>Wards affected</b>	Not applicable		

## **1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service (CIMS) was formed in 2007 via a Joint Committee Agreement for 2007-2018. This Agreement was updated in 2015, for the period 2015 – 2021, ending on 31 July 2021.
- 1.2 It is proposed that the Agreement be renewed for the period 1 August 2021 - 31 July 2027.
- 1.3 The proposed Agreement is a renewal of the existing 2015 – 2021 Agreement. Other than the dates, the changes are largely limited to formatting and minor corrections.

## **2. Recommended Decision**

- 2.1 To agree a renewal of the Colchester and Ipswich Museums (CIMS) Joint Committee Agreement.

## **3. Reason for Recommended Decision**

- 3.1 The Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service (CIMS) was formed in 2007 via a Joint Committee Agreement for 2007-2018. The agreement designates Colchester Borough Council as the employing authority for CIMS and empowers CIMS to operate the museums service on Ipswich Borough Council's behalf. The Joint Museums Committee (JMC) is the main governance mechanism for the service. The 2007-2018 agreement was updated and revised in 2015 to cover the period 2015 – 2021.
- 3.2 Since its formation, CIMS has enjoyed significant success in both Ipswich and Colchester and the nature of the combined service is seen in the sector as an exemplar of good practice. The future is anticipated to include the major redevelopment of Ipswich Museum and continued involvement in the Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation scheme.
- 3.3 The 2015 – 2021 Agreement ends on 31 July 2021 and, following consultation with senior officers and the relevant Portfolio Holders, it is proposed that the agreement be renewed.

## **4. Alternative Options**

- 4.1 To choose not to renew the Agreement. The resulting uncertainty and impact on staffing, systems, budget and external funding, notably from Arts Council make this an

inadvisable option. Instead, a short-term Agreement could allow the requisite time for consultation and a feasibility study looking at alternative models of operating.

## **5. Background Information**

- 5.1 The proposed 2021-2027 Agreement is attached in full at Appendix A. The previous Agreement for 2015-2021 is attached in full at Appendix B. The proposed duration of the new Agreement is to align it with the Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation Scheme funding cycle.
- 5.2 The proposed Agreement is a renewal of the existing 2015 – 2021 Agreement. Other than the dates, the changes are limited to formatting and minor corrections. The only significant proposed changes are:
- The address for Colchester Borough Council was amended from the Town Hall to Rowan House.
  - Ipswich Art Gallery was added to the list of museums in 2.1 that are managed and operated by the Joint Museums Service. This appears previously to have been an omission.
  - The finance section has been updated for 2021 – 2022.
  - Section 3.6 detailing the proportional allocation of marketing spend by both partner authorities has been removed.
  - The signing authority for Colchester was changed from 'Proper officer' to 'Authorised Officer'.

## **6. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications**

- 6.1 Not applicable.

## **7. Standard References**

- 7.1 There are no particular references to publicity considerations; community safety; health and safety, risk management or Environmental and Sustainability implications.

## **8. Strategic Plan References**

- 8.1 The provision of a high-quality museum service in partnership delivers against a number of Strategic Plan priorities:
- Strengthen Colchester's tourism sector and welcome more visitors each year.
  - Protect, enhance and celebrate Colchester's unique heritage.

## **9. Financial implications**

- 9.1 The adjustments to the 2021 – 2022 contribution have already been agreed by the partner authorities.
- 9.2 No amendments have been made to the methodology for changes to the annual contribution from the partner authorities.

## **Appendices**

Appendix A - Proposed Joint Museums Agreement 2021 - 2027.

Appendix B - Joint Museums Agreement 2015 - 2021.