

REPORT



REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE
CHAIRMAN OF ARTS COLLECTION TASK AND FINISH GROUP	COMMUNITY FOCUS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	24 JULY 2014

REVIEW OF FYLDE ARTS COLLECTION

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

The report provides committee with the interim conclusions and recommendations of the arts collection task and finish group for consideration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are requested to consider and approve the following recommendations of the arts collection task and finish group:

1. That the Blackpool Fylde and Wyre Cultural Partnership Framework is recommended for endorsement by Cabinet.
2. To present an interim report to the next Cabinet detailing the work of the Task and Finish Group thus far.
3. To acknowledge the excellent work undertaken by the Arts Working Group involving the Friends of the Lytham St Annes Art Collection, Booths, Lancashire County Council Museum Service Fylde Decorative and Fine Arts Society and the Civic Society. Also the Group wish to support future collaboration and partnership working with these groups.
4. To investigate the feasibility of establishing an appropriate mechanism/ legal framework to enable a management policy for the Arts Collection to be developed.
5. To explore the feasibility/options available to appoint a part time dedicated Arts Development Officer who would be responsible for management of the Arts Collection as part of a wider arts development role and to secure external funding for projects at a level which exceeds the cost of the post.
6. Officers bring a further report to Community Focus Scrutiny Committee on the outcomes of 4 and 5 above.

CABINET PORTFOLIO

This item falls within the following cabinet portfolio(s):

Leisure and Culture

Councillor Sue Fazackerley

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Community Focus Scrutiny Committee 25th July 2013

Following consideration of this matter it was RESOLVED to appoint a Task and Finish Group comprising councillors Christine Akeroyd, Tim Armit, Julie Brickles, Fabian Craig-Wilson and Kath Harper to undertake the proposed art service review with a view to reporting back to committee at appropriate intervals.

Cabinet 16th January 2013

In reaching its decision, Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and at the meeting and RESOLVED to acknowledge the opportunities created by the Localism Act to review all assets and requests that officers investigate all options possible in order to ensure that value for money for the public purse is achieved from all Council assets.

Executive Committee 20th April 2005

Following a full debate the Executive committee RESOLVED:

- 1) To retain works of art and continues to allocate appropriate funds for their preservation and maintenance.
- 2) To agree to the long term loan of the majority of the Ansdell paintings and other identified works to E H Booths & Co to form the basis of an art gallery display at their new Haven Road supermarket subject to a detailed service level agreement.
- 3) To consider at an appropriate stage in its development as a visitor attraction the display of selected works at Lytham Hall.
- 4) To investigate the loan of the painting entitled Queen Katherine's Dream, by Henri Fuseli, to a major, national/regional gallery.
- 5) To agree to the delegation of above actions (including, consideration of the disposal of the remainder of the works to finance the purchase of other selected works) to the Cultural Services Business Manager in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Urban and Rural Heritage Champions, the Asset Management Champion and Councillor Fabian Wilson; the negotiated proposals to be brought back, in due course, to the Executive Committee for ratification.

REPORT

1. There have been 4 meetings of the task and finish group in January /February/May and June of 2014:-
2. Meeting 1: 13th January 2014. - The purpose of the meeting was to outline the full scope of the Arts service at Fylde in line with the DCMS Definition of Arts Services and to agree the rationale and purpose of the review. The task and finish group were informed of the national picture in terms of the Arts Council, the regional policy from Lancashire County Council and the sub regional partnership work that is being undertaken by Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde.

Interviewees Name	Organisation	Subject
Darren Bell Head of Leisure and Culture	Fylde Borough Council	Scope of the Fylde Arts Service and sub-regional Strategy
Paul Kelly Senior Arts Development Manager	Lancashire County Council	Role of the Arts Council and Lancashire County Council policy and role and responsibility

Outcomes of the meeting

1. To narrow the scope of the review (as originally envisaged) to Art collection only
2. To consider the draft Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Cultural Partnership document at the next meeting of the Group.

Rationale

- To review the Council's Arts Service at Fylde as part of the programme of service reviews
- To examine the policy and strategy for delivering the Council's arts service at Fylde
- To determine the future service delivery options
- To work with partners on possible efficiencies and savings

Purpose

- To ensure best value is delivered from the Council's arts service
 - To set clear service delivery outcomes
 - To ensure the service meets corporate priorities and objectives
 - To achieve the most effective partnership working possible in the service
3. Meeting 2: 10th February 2014. - The purpose of the meeting was to gain an understanding of the role of the Arts Working Group, be aware of the content of the Art collection and its importance internationally, nationally and locally, gain an appreciation of the curatorial role of Lancashire County Council with the collection in the short, medium and long term, gain a better understanding of the conservation and restoration arrangements of the art collection, gain a better appreciation of the operation of the Fylde Gallery, consider linkages with other collections, galleries and museums and finally to identify and agree the issues relating to the Fylde Art Collection.

Interviewees Name	Organisation	Subject
Heather Davis Conservation Manager	Lancashire County Council	Lancashire County Councils Role Fylde Art Collection and the Fylde Gallery
Geoff Willetts Senior Coast and Countryside Officer	Fylde Borough Council	Role and membership of the Arts Working Group
Jane Blood Director	Christies	Art Collection asset register and future Options for the management of the Fylde Art Collection
Nicola Martin Solicitor	Fylde Borough Council	Legal Overview

Outcomes of the meeting

1. That an invitation to attend the next meeting of the Group be extended to Graham Booth (Fylde Gallery), John Miller (Lytham Hall) and Margaret Race
 2. That consideration be given to visiting the Conservation Studio and the gallery at Booths as part of a future meeting.
 3. That officers address the identified issues, as far as resources allow, to inform further consideration at a future meeting of all the issues listed.
4. Meeting 3: 12th May 2014. - The purpose of the meeting was as per the meeting of the 10th February 2014.

Interviewees Name	Organisation	Subject
Margaret Race	Granddaughter Alderman Dawson	Evidence interest and involvement with the Fylde Collection
Simon Thorpe Project Manager	Lytham Hall	Evidence Lytham Hall restoration future opportunity to display Fylde Collection
Graham Booth Company Director	E.H.Booths.co.Ltd	Booths family connection with the Fylde Collection and Fylde gallery

Outcomes of the meeting

To prepare a Position Statement on the review for consideration at the next meeting of the Task and Finish Group with a view to reporting to the next appropriate meeting of the Community Focus Scrutiny Committee. The following were identified by the Task and Finish Group as issues:-

1. A better understanding of the options available to the Council for managing the Collection and as part of this, the extent of its powers to review the collection, dispose of any part of it and the extent of powers to apply any funds generated by any disposal. This should include consideration of those powers relating to individual artworks and the collection as a whole. The need for advice on how best to ensure that the Council has clearly defined authority and powers either itself or in partnership to manage the Collection was also identified. See 4 below.
 2. On-going Insurance, security / renovation issues
 3. The need to have in place a clear policy of how the Council would like to manage the Collection
 4. Feasibility of establishing a Trust to manage the art collection.
 5. The requirement to present the findings of the Task and Finish Group to the Community Focus Scrutiny Committee at the earliest opportunity.
5. Meeting 4: 23rd June 2014. – The purpose of the meeting was to conclude the work of the task and finish group and to agree the basis of an interim report to Community Focus Scrutiny Committee.

Outcomes of the meeting

1. That the Blackpool Fylde and Wyre Cultural Partnership Framework should be recommended to Scrutiny and Cabinet and that the Framework should be endorsed by this Council.
2. To note the content of the Position Statement and the issues identified by Councillor Armit and make no further adjustments
3. The Group confirmed that the list of issues adequately reflected the issues identified by the Group
4. Having discussed and agreed the issues, the Group proposed interim recommendations for consideration by the Community Focus Scrutiny Committee.

Overview of the Collection

5. Since 1925 to date Lytham St Anne's Borough Council, and subsequently Fylde Borough Council, have been donated a significant number of works of art. The collection had its beginnings when John Booth of the local grocery family donated a painting by Richard Ansdell RA called "The Herd Lassie", for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of Lytham St Anne's; this represented the start of the arts collection.
6. There are now approximately 350 works of art in the art service collection comprising mainly of oil paintings, drawings and watercolours, together with Asian works of art, furniture, sculpture and silver. Together these make up the assets of the arts collection, the Council does not have a dedicated museum or public gallery in which to display the works of art within its portfolio.
7. The paintings include a collection of oils by Richard Ansdell RA (1815 – 1885), a nationally famous artist after whom the area of Ansdell was named. Richard Ansdell was a prolific artist specialising in rural and hunting views. A number of his works in the collection are local scenes. Other works include similarly well-known artists including Charles Burton Barber, Blass and Henri Fuseli, a Swiss born artist of international significance.
8. The paintings were gifted to the council primarily by local residents although a significant proportion were donated by Alderman James Dawson, a former Mayor of Lytham St Anne's an avid collector of artworks. Alderman Dawson's wish was that the paintings should be displayed in a gallery for the benefit and enjoyment of local residents.
9. In March 2013 Christies valued 152 items of the collection at between £3.5 -£5 million pounds. The notable items of the collection are the Fuseli (Vision of Catherine of Aragon £1.5- £2.0m, Burton Barber (In disgrace) £250-£300k, Blass (Italian Flower Girl) £150-£200k and 26 Richard Ansdell ranging between £30-£100k including the Herd Lassie.
10. Christies raised the following future options/issues for the management of the Fylde Art Collection include –
 - Not all of the collection is catalogued (Approx. 50 items unallocated)
 - Inadequate storage facilities
 - Lack of definitive policies (arrangements for handling, long term loan, future acquisitions/disposals and the role of partners and friends groups)
 - Future direction of the collection (the 40 pictures worth over £10,000 were suggested to form part of the core collection, two virtually identical Breanski's, nine sculptures worth £90,000, ivories worth £50,000, Fuseli not been in the Town Hall for 4 years and the Council should consider if it needs all the prints and low value items)
 - Condition of the collection (60 items worth less than £3,000 some of which require restoration)

Management

11. Responsibility for the Fylde Collection falls within the Leisure and Culture portfolio. The Leisure and Cultural Services team are responsible for the day to day management of the collection.
12. The service is essentially the storage, security and, where possible, the maintenance and restoration of the art collection with public displays whenever possible. The Council does not have a post dedicated to the art service the responsibilities for storage, display and working with partners is covered by a number of officers as part of other duties.
13. Lancashire County Councils Museums Service provide conservation advice and curatorial advice with regard to the Fylde Collection.

This includes –

- Advice to the Arts Working Group and other partner groups
 - Administration of enquiries from members of the public about the collections/exhibitions
 - 24/7 emergency cover with regard to its collections and their display
14. Additional monies are paid for the following support from Lancashire County Museums Service which is variable dependant on available budget.
 - Conservation of items in its collections
 - Conservation/ preparation of items for exhibitions
 - Provision of specialist museum technicians (up to 4 people) to move, install and dismantle its exhibitions
 - Undertake design and creation of promotional material relating to its exhibitions
 - Move works of art and arrange or hang works in the Town Hall

Conservation

15. Over the past years, a minimum of 66 pieces of art work have benefited from conservation work. Work continues with the prioritisation of future conservation work and a rolling programme for smaller pieces of work. Major conservation of the Council's collections are now mainly funded by donation
16. The Conservation studio is the conservation section of Lancashire Museum Service. Based in Preston and working in new purpose built studios within a historic grade II listed Church. The studios are considered a landmark development to promote conservation to the public. There are currently 3 pictures at the conservation studio and part of the ivory collection. There is no public access to the conservation studio it is simply for the restoration and storage of artwork

Policy and strategy

17. The Council's approach to managing the collection has been derived by a number of key decisions made by the Council in the past. The last key decision was made by the Executive Committee on 20th April 2005:
18. The Arts Working Group have a defined set of objectives for the management and development of the collection.
19. The issue of the extent of the powers that the Council has to manage the collection is central to the future management of the collection and will impact on the development of policy and strategy.

Finance

20. The existing revenue budget for support to the arts is £5,585. The council also pays £4,555 for all risks insurance for the arts collection.
21. The council pays Lancashire County Councils Museums Service to provide conservation advice and curatorial advice with regard to the Fylde Collection. In the last financial year this amounted to £4,500 from the above 'support to the arts' budget. There is no revenue budget in place to cover the restoration of the Art Collection.
22. 15% of the Senior Coast and Countryside Officers time is spent on managing the arts collection. Previously the Council had a dedicated Arts Development Officer. The role was part funded by the Arts Council and when the Arts Development Officer left the Authority in 2005 the role was deleted from the establishment.

Legal

23. A legal overview was provided to the meeting of the Task and Finish Group in February 2014 which summarised legal advice obtained in 2005 and 2013 from Counsel. The advice in 2013 was obtained to answer questions on management of the Collection including disposal. That advice was that an application to the Court would be needed to rule on whether the Collection is held as a whole under a charitable trust and that the approval of the Court would be required before any disposal could be made.
24. Counsel also considered the wider collection and came to the view that the Charity Commission and the Court would be more likely to find that the whole collection was held for a general charitable purpose than not and that the sale of some of the pieces of less value to the Collection for the purpose of raising funds for maintaining those of greater cultural worth may be possible.
25. However, the advice is clear that the basis upon which individual pieces and possibly the Collection as a whole is held would need to be confirmed by the Court before steps could be taken to sell any part of the collection. It would be hoped that advice could be obtained to enable the Council to put in place a legal framework which would mean that there are clear guidelines established for the future management of the Collection. A decision of the Council would be needed as to how the Collection is to be curated and managed as this would form part of the case the Council would put to the Charity Commission and the Court.

Storage exhibition and display of the collection

26. The arts store is in the Town Hall. The majority of the Fylde collection that isn't being displayed is housed in the arts store. Security has been reviewed as part of a recent audit review. The collection is stored in a timber racking which has been identified as not fit for purpose. The current environmental conditions within the store have been assessed and humidity could be improved. The Town Hall/Chaseley buildings are undergoing phased refurbishment as funds permit which will eventually improve the store.
27. The Fylde gallery was opened in 2008 as part of the new Booths supermarket development. The Booths family have supported the development of the gallery and they underwrite it financially in terms of building maintenance, security and utility costs. There is a service level in place dated 18th September 2008 between Fylde Borough Council and E.H. Booth and Co Ltd. The purpose of which was to 'create an art gallery and store room within the Premises for the on-going display and storage of the paintings for the benefit of residents of, and visitors to, the borough of Fylde and to encourage and develop temporary exhibitions comprising other works of art through the Councils Arts Working Group and otherwise as agreed by Booths'.

28. Other than the Service Level agreement there is no provision for making the Gallery available to the Council or the public. There is no provision requiring the Gallery to be kept available as an exhibition space.
29. The Fylde Gallery hosts exhibitions throughout the year, including at least two exhibitions from the collection, together with high quality exhibitions from local art and photographic societies. The exhibitions are typically 6 weeks in duration and attract 2,000 visitors. A number of volunteers now assist with the invigilation and interpretation of the works and displays.
30. Pieces from the collection are displayed on the walls of the corridors at the Town Hall, in the Mayor's Parlour and in the Reception Room. The collection is seen by Fylde Council staff and members with Public access limited by appointment or an annual open day arranged in conjunction with the Civic Society.
31. Historically Lytham Hall has been loaned and has displayed a number of paintings from the collection. Currently there are no pieces of the collection on loan to Lytham Hall. Once the restoration work at the Hall has been completed permanent and temporary exhibition space will be created offering the opportunity to display more items from the collection in the restored sections of the building.
32. Works from the Fylde collection are displayed at the masonic hall (2 Watercolours). Items from the collection have also been displayed at various Lancashire County Council museums and the Grundy Art Gallery in Blackpool.
33. In recent years the Council has loaned selected works to a number of prestigious exhibitions abroad, requesting and receiving a revenue contribution towards the costs of conservation as a consequence. Donations have also been received towards conservation work from supportive community friends groups and individuals on an ad hoc basis.

Groups/Support

34. The Arts Working Group was established by Fylde Borough Council, comprising representatives from the Council, Booths, Lancashire County Council Museum Service, Fylde Decorative and Fine Arts Society, the Civic Society and the Friends of the Lytham St Anne's Art Collection.
35. The Friends was formed to raise money for the Art Collection. They have 86 members and raise money through donations and the sale of postcards.
36. The friends have secured the funding or are in the process of securing the funding to restore the following –
 - [The Drummer Boy by Mark W Langiois](#) £2,000
 - The New Curate by Percy Robert Craft £4,500 (The British Lawn Tennis Association)
 - Lytham Sandhills by Richard Ansdell £2,000 promised by Civic Society
 - Lochnagar by Alfred de Breanski Snr £4,500
37. The friends supported by Civic Society and Fylde Decorative and Fine Arts Society put on 2 exhibitions of the Fylde Collection at the Fylde Gallery per year. The Friends through their volunteer programme invigilate at the gallery during exhibitions and maintain a web site www.friendsofthelythamstannesartcollection.org
38. Fylde Decorative and Fine Arts Society, a local arts education, heritage and conservation society, has recently been awarded a grant of £24,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to support a two year project to raise awareness of the collection. Their 'Tagging the Treasures' project will recruit volunteers to research artists, art works and donors producing a complete online and printed catalogue that will make information about the collection fully accessible. These valuable

volunteer and community group initiatives form a large part of the arts service. The Tagging the Treasure project will fully catalogue the collection including the unclassified works.

39. Consideration and agreement of Issues Identified. Members noted that over the last 12 months the following issues had been highlighted by interviewees, the Group and the lead officers:-

1. Constant review of collection – there needs to be a mechanism for ensuring proper future of the collection
2. Reliant on LCC museum service- risk of lack on continuity
3. Lack of historical information on the collection (misplaced files etc.)- Limitations of use / donators intentions?
4. Not all items on the inventory
5. No electronic management system
6. Small budget for management no restoration budget
7. Concerns over storage conditions and risk identification
8. Proportion of the collection low monetary value / poor condition
9. Limited opportunity to exhibit collection
10. Duty/expectation to manage collection
11. Growing public interest in the collection/heavily reliant on volunteer support.
12. Public interest / reaction to changes to collection
13. Lack of in house specialist knowledge
14. Limited capacity to develop and improve the arts service /collection.
15. How can we make the collection work for Fylde Borough Council/capacity for income generation?
16. Opportunities for external grants and funding contributions
17. No clear set of Policies for the management of the collection
18. Lack of acquisitions & disposals policy
19. On-going Insurance, security / renovation issues
20. Feasibility of establishing a legal framework for managing the art collection

The Task and Finish Group confirmed that the above list adequately reflected the issues identified by the Group.

40. Conclusions and Recommendations

Having discussed and agreed the issues, the Group proposed the following interim recommendations for consideration by the Community Focus Scrutiny Committee:

1. That the Blackpool Fylde and Wyre Cultural Partnership Framework be recommended for endorsement by Community Focus Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.
2. To present an interim report to the next Community Focus Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet detailing the work of the Task and Finish Group thus far.
3. To acknowledge the excellent work undertaken by the Arts Working Group involving the Friends of the Lytham St Annes Art Collection, Booths, Lancashire County Council Museum Service Fylde

Decorative and Fine Arts Society and the Civic Society. Also the Group wish to support future collaboration and partnership working with these groups.

4. To investigate the feasibility of establishing an appropriate mechanism/ legal framework to enable a management policy for the Arts Collection to be developed.

5. To explore the feasibility/options available to appoint a part time dedicated Arts Development Officer who would be responsible for management of the Arts Collection as part of a wider arts development role and to secure external funding for projects at a level which exceeds the cost of the post.

6. Officers bring a further report to Community Focus Scrutiny Committee on the outcomes of 4 and 5 above.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	As outlined in the report
Legal	As outlined in the report
Community Safety	There are no implications
Human Rights and Equalities	There are no implications
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	There are no implications
Health & Safety and Risk Management	There are no implications

REPORT AUTHOR	TEL	DATE	DOC ID
Christine Akeroyd Chairman of Arts Collection Task and finish group		9 th July 2014	

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Community Focus Scrutiny Committee agenda	25/7/13	http://www.fylde.gov.uk/meetings/details/1095

Attached documents

None