

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING
CABINET MEMBER**

**MAJOR PARTNER MUSEUM FUNDED POST –
NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE MUSEUM SERVICE**

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

1.1 To seek approval for the establishment of a fixed term post of Collections Assistant.

1.2 The key points of the report are as follows:

- The Arts Council England has awarded Major Partner Museum status to the Humber Museums Partnership (HMP). The partnership is made up of North Lincolnshire Museum Service, East Riding of Yorkshire Museums and Hull City Museums.
- There are over 2000 museums in the United Kingdom. Only 21 of them have been awarded Major Partner Museum status.
- Major Partner Museum status brings with it £2,500,000 of funding over three years – 2015-2018.
- At a recent meeting of the HMP Board a further £10,000 was allocated to create an additional Collections Assistant post. The post will help to backfill the work of the Collections Manager to enable her to concentrate on the 'Framed' and 'Our Humber Story' projects.
- The Arts Council England grant will pay the full cost of the post for a six month fixed term contract.
- The funding we have received during the first year of the project has enabled us to create a new Post-War gallery and purpose-built under 5s area at the North Lincolnshire Museum.
- Visitor numbers at the North Lincolnshire Museum have increased significantly since the improvements were carried out.
- We must spend this additional funding within the current financial year. This means we need to carry out the recruitment as soon as possible to ensure that the successful candidate takes up the post by 1 September 2016.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Arts Council England has awarded a grant of £2,500,000 jointly to North Lincolnshire Museum Service, Hull City Museums and East Riding of Yorkshire Museums.
- 2.2 £372,639 from the grant is being used to fund improvements to the North Lincolnshire Museum and at Normanby Hall Country Park. Our overall aim is to make our venues more attractive to families. We have already opened a new Post War Gallery at the North Lincolnshire Museum and will shortly be opening the new Under 5s area, 'Dudley's Den'.
- 2.3 We are now beginning work on the new Steel Gallery at the Museum, which is scheduled to open in February 2017. In October we will begin the work to install a new Under 5s area in the Farming Museum at Normanby. This will open in time for the start of the new season in April 2017. All of these projects are fully funded by the Arts Council.
- 2.4 Visitors to the Museum more than doubled in February and March 2016, following the re-opening of the Museum. In 2015 we had 5,031 visitors compared to 10,687 in 2016.
- 2.5 At the meeting of the HMP Board in May 2016 a further £10,000 was allocated to the North Lincolnshire Museum Service. This funding is to be used to employ a fixed term Collections Assistant at the North Lincolnshire Museum. This post will backfill some of the duties of the Collections Manager to enable her to concentrate more on two exciting projects that will be used to highlight what North Lincolnshire has to offer in the lead up to and during 2017 as part of the City of Culture year.
- 2.6 The Arts Council England funding will pay for all the costs of the post. The partnership board require that the post be advertised externally. We have to spend the additional funding within the current financial year. We will need to begin the recruitment as soon as possible to ensure that the successful candidate is in post by 1 September 2016, at the latest.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Option 1 – For the Cabinet Member to approve the establishment of the post of Collections Assistant.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Option 1 – We need to establish the post to ensure we have the staff resources to participate fully in the project. The longer-term benefits include raising the profile of the museum service throughout the region and increasing the visitor numbers to our venues.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 There are no additional financial implications. The full cost of the post will be met by the Arts Council England grant.

5.2 We have written a job description for the post. The post has been evaluated as Grade 5 using the Council's Job Evaluation process. The post will be fixed term for six months from the date of appointment.

5.3 There are no other implications.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

6.1 Not applicable.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

7.1 There are no known conflicts of interest to highlight.

7.2 The staff at the Museum and Normanby support this proposal.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 To establish the post of Collections Assistant.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: none