

Appendix 2**Other Options Considered**

- The closure of selected community cultural venues. This option is not presently recommended on the grounds that Hampshire County Council is committed to widening participation in museums and arts activity across the county and its surrounds, and it would prefer to work with existing and new partners to develop community partnership approaches that enable Hampshire to continue this support.
- The closure of selected directly delivered flagship venues. This option is not recommended on the grounds that these play a central role in leading on delivery of excellent cultural activity across the county and many are the outcome of recent investment by HCC and external partners, reflecting this wider ambition.
- Significantly reduce learning and community engagement activity unless it can be funded by external grant sources or delivered by volunteers. This option is not recommended on the grounds that it is the high quality learning and community engagement activity both within and without cultural venues that leads on widening participation. Given this importance, grant bodies expect a core capacity of professional learning and community engagement support within an organisation such as HCC before awarding additional funding.
- Significantly reduce the centralised specialist services provided in the areas of exhibitions, collections and business development. This is not recommended on the grounds that this group of services enable HCC to provide an innovative and quality arts and museums service meeting national standards in a cost-effective manner. These services are fundamental to supporting widening participation and heritage stewardship agendas, and their capacity and reputation enables the service to lever significant external funding in support of its work.
- Significantly reduce the arts and museums grants programme. This option is not recommended on the grounds that the HCC grants programme is vital to retaining a dynamic and regionally important arts and museums scene in the county into the long-term.
- Significantly increase income generation activity through additional commercial activity, sponsorship and grant funding opportunities. This aspect will be a key element of the wider strategic option proposed, but it would be unrealistic to assume that increased income generation can address the full financial pressures outlined in section 3.
- Task all managers to find the required savings independently across each function within the service. This option is not recommended on the grounds that the scale of financial pressure being addressed requires a strategic approach if the long-term future sustainability of the service is to be assured.