

**HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****Executive Decision Record**

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside
<b>Date:</b>	6 March 2014
<b>Title:</b>	Update on the Hampshire Solent Cultural Trust
<b>Reference:</b>	5630
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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**1. The decision:**

- a) That the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside:
- i) Notes the progress made to date, including the results of the formal staff consultation process, and supports the forward plan of key tasks and decisions as set out in Section 9 of the report.
  - ii) Supports the submission of a Major Partner Museums application as lead partner, in conjunction with Winchester City, Portsmouth City and Southampton City Councils, on behalf of the Trust to which it would be novated once established.

**2. Reason(s) for the decision:**

- 2.1 For the Executive member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside to make a decision about proceeding with the development of a charitable company limited by guarantee (working title Hampshire Solent Cultural Trust) to run the arts and museum services currently delivered by Hampshire County Council.
- 2.2 The creation of a new Trust with the merger of Winchester City Council Museum service provides the greatest possible long term resilience against the anticipated financial climate as the Trust would have new revenue funding streams, including Tax relief, external grants and philanthropic donations.

**3. Other options considered and rejected:**

3.1 An initial review of governance options identified the charitable company limited by guarantee as the preferred model, and in January 2012, three partner authorities (including Southampton City Council) approved preparation of this detailed business case to test the preferred option. Arts Council England (and its predecessor, Museums, Libraries Archives) has provided strategic and funding support throughout this process.

3.2 The business analysis considered 3 options for a trust both with and without Southampton City Council:

- A. **A Fully Integrated Merger of the 3 partner authorities into a Hampshire Solent Cultural Trust**, working in strategic partnership with the wider cultural heritage sector
- B. **A Partially Integrated Merger of the 3 partner authorities into a Hampshire Solent Cultural Trust**, working in strategic partnership with the wider cultural heritage sector
- C. **A Fully Integrated Merger of Hampshire County Council Arts and Museums and Winchester City Council Museums into a Hampshire Solent Cultural Trust**, working in strategic partnership with the wider cultural heritage sector

The above options have been compared with each Arts, Museums and Heritage Service remaining as a separate local authority service.

3.3 During the development of the outline and detailed Business case, Southampton City Council withdrew from a potential merger of cultural services and the decision report on 25 September 2013 recommended Option C above, a **fully integrated merger of Hampshire County Council Arts and Museums and Winchester City Council Museums Service**, working in strategic partnership with the wider cultural heritage sector.

**4. Conflicts of interest:**

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:

None.

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

None.

**5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.**

**6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.**

**7. Statement from the Decision Maker:**

<b>Approved by:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
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<b>Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside Councillor Keith Chapman</b>	