

Garvagh Museum	13th December 2016
To: The Leisure and Development Committee For Decision	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy & Engaged Communities
Outcome	Council will work to develop and promote stable and cohesive communities across the Borough
Lead Officer	Head of Community & Culture Cultural Services Manager
Cost: (If applicable)	£7,000

The purpose of this report is to consider options for the continuation of financial support to Garvagh Museum, to assist Council in meeting its strategic aims and objectives as detailed in the Cultural Strategy 2016-21.

Background

Garvagh Museum is the only community led accredited museum in the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough. It is staffed by volunteers and is open during the summer with group visits available throughout the year.

In 2008/9 Coleraine Borough Council agreed funding of £5,000 per year for Garvagh Museum initially for a three-year period. An additional five-year agreement was made in 2011 of £5,000 in Year one and £7,500 in the subsequent four years. This agreement ended in 2015/16. In October 2015, Mr D McMeekin and Mr W Patterson made a presentation to Council on the history of the museum, their work, exhibitions, community events, fund raising and future sustainability of the museum. The minutes of the meeting noted that “discussions took place on the future preservation of the museum and how Council could play a part in this. Council expressed their willingness to continue their support”.

Garvagh Museum’s Mission Statement

The mission of Garvagh Museum is to “provide a permanent facility within Garvagh which collects and preserves evidence of historic, artistic and scientific value and interest. The collection archive and catalogue will reflect the historic, traditional and current activities of the region and its people. Garvagh Museum will exhibit and interpret these collections and items of interest for the benefit and enjoyment of the inhabitants and visitors to the region”.

Achievements 2015-16

- Exhibition programme featured the following exhibitions:
 - Commemoration of the Battle of Waterloo.

- Commemoration of the 90th birthday of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.
- Community engagement exhibition entitled “The Big Day” featuring wedding dresses and photographs from the local community.
- Events programme included a fund raising book launch and a community engagement evening.
- Supported local organisations by lending exhibits and display aids and developing exhibitions.
- Facilitated visits by 14 local groups including schools, churches, nursing homes and community groups.
- In total approximately 6,500 people have visited the museum or were involved in one of the museum’s community engagement activities in 2015-16.

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Cultural Strategy 2016-21

The Council has recently developed a new Cultural Strategy 2016-21 with five key themes and strategic aims. The work which Garvagh Museum is currently engaged in and has planned for 2016-17, subject to funding, provides an opportunity for Council to work in partnership with the Museum, through a service based contract, to meet these strategic aims as follows:

Cultural Strategy Themes and Aims	Garvagh Museum Programme 2016-17	Targets
<p>Theme 1: Enhancing our cultural venues & assets</p> <p>Strategic Aim - <i>To use our landscape and our cultural assets and activities to enable opportunities for both local people and visitors to participate in the culture, arts and heritage of the area.</i></p> <p>Theme 3: History, heritage and cultural tourism</p> <p>Strategic Aim - <i>To promote a sense of pride, identity and deeper understanding of our area by bringing together the many stories, histories, identities and languages.</i></p>	<p>Collections and Programme Development</p> <p>The Museum has received donations of significant items and plans to develop a programme of exhibitions and events around these. This will include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Photographic Exhibition based around the Dallas Photographic Archive. George Dallas was a renowned 19th century local photographer. ○ New media gallery to house a donation of numerous media equipment which chart the development of media and media equipment over the past thirty years including one of the first cameras used to broadcast the first images of independent television in Ulster. <p>Support to local organisations</p> <p>Support local organisations by lending exhibits and display aids and assisting with the development of exhibitions.</p>	<p>3 exhibitions 3 events 6,500 visitors/participants</p> <p>2 groups supported</p>

<p>Theme 4: Participation, inclusion and equality</p> <p>Strategic Aim - <i>To ensure increased access to and participation in culture, arts and heritage to marginalised and excluded groups (including section 75 groups).</i></p> <p>Theme 5: Communication and advocacy</p> <p>Strategic Aims- <i>To engage effectively with a wide range of stakeholders to both increase participation in cultural activity and to strengthen the cultural infrastructure within the area.</i></p> <p><i>To raise greater awareness of culture, arts and heritage within the Causeway Coast and Glens area</i></p>	<p>Community Engagement</p> <p>Potential community engagement projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1718 Ulster Migration project – work is ongoing with the Ulster Historical Foundation and Queens University Belfast Archaeological Department. This project also offers opportunities to work alongside Council as it has already been identified as a key council museum project. ○ Curriculum based project linking in with local schools ○ Planning for event to mark the 30th anniversary of the Museum in 2018. ○ Continue to facilitate visits by local groups including schools, churches, nursing homes and community groups. <p>Volunteering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continue to support and develop volunteers and the Friends of Garvagh Museum organisation who assist with the day to day running of the museum and with fund raising. 	<p>2 projects</p> <p>14 groups visits</p> <p>200 volunteer hours</p> <p>1 Training programme provided</p>
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Requirements

Garvagh Museum will be required as part of a service contract with Council:

1. To deliver on the agreed targets which will assist Council to deliver services and activities within its Cultural Strategy and Business Plan 2016-17 as per above.
2. To attend regular meetings with Cultural Services Officers.
3. To comply with Cultural Services monitoring and evaluation requirements.

Recommendation

To award a service contract to Garvagh Museum to the value of £7000 in order to provide a range of agreed community based museum services and activities for local communities within the Borough, assisting Council to meet its service objectives as set out in the Cultural Strategy 2016-21.