

## Supporting Information and Impact Assessment

|                                |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Service / Policy:              | Museums         |
| Executive Lead:                | Nicole Amil     |
| Director / Assistant Director: | Anne-Marie Bond |

|          |   |       |               |         |            |
|----------|---|-------|---------------|---------|------------|
| Version: | 3 | Date: | February 2018 | Author: | Phil Black |
|----------|---|-------|---------------|---------|------------|

| <b>Section 1: Background Information</b> |  |
|--|--|
| <b>1.</b>                                | <p><b>What is the proposal / issue?</b></p> <p>The proposal is to maintain current funding levels for museums in Torbay for 2018/19 and for 2019/20. This is an amendment to the original proposal following further consideration and consultation feedback.</p> <p>The original proposal was to cease the grant currently paid to Torquay Museum and Brixham Museum.</p>   |
| <b>2.</b>                                | <p><b>What is the current situation?</b></p> <p>There are 3 accredited museums within Torbay:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Torquay Museum</li> <li>• Brixham Museum</li> <li>• Torre Abbey</li> </ul> <p>Torre Abbey is directly managed and funded by Torbay Council. Torquay and Brixham Museums receive a grant from the Council.</p> <p>The grants to Torquay and Brixham Museums have been reducing year on year and a one-off amount was placed into a reserve account which the museums could draw on specifically for works which would assist in remaining sustainable and where they needed match funding. To date both museums have drawn on all of this allocated funding (Torquay Museum £20,000 towards match funding Arts Council England Growing Museums grant and Brixham Museum £5,000 towards their marketing fund).</p> <p>All of this budget relates to discretionary areas of spend for the council.</p> |
| <b>3.</b>                                | <p><b>What options have been considered?</b></p> <p>The Museums have been aware that funding from the Council has been reducing year on year and when the Council made a one off reserve available to them, they were aware that this was specifically to assist them in becoming sustainable. The Council has also introduced its own local lottery within the last few months which has enabled all local good causes including the museums to</p>   |

|    |  |
|----|--|
|    | <p>sign up to use this as a method of fund raising. Both Torquay and Brixham Museum have signed up to the Torbay Lottery.</p> <p>There is an option to reduce the funding to both facilities, rather than cut the budget completely. However in this scenario the Council would have to both fund this saving from elsewhere in the council budget and also consider how sustainable any cut would be in future years, or whether this is just delaying the overall cessation of funding in the future.</p>  |
| 4. | <p><b>How does this proposal support the ambitions and principles of the Corporate Plan 2015-19?</b></p> <p>Ambitions: Prosperous and Healthy Torbay</p> <p>Principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use reducing resources to best effect</li> </ul>  |
| 5. | <p><b>Who will be affected by this proposal and who do you need to consult with?</b></p> <p>This proposal has the potential to affect both Torquay and Brixham Museum as well as members of the public.</p> <p>Members of the public may be affected by this proposal as the reduction in grant could potentially result in a reduced service, or the closure of the museums.</p> <p>The Museums will be affected by this proposal as this is a cut to a funding stream which they rely upon.</p>  |
| 6. | <p><b>How will you propose to consult?</b></p> <p>Consultation was undertaken as part of the Councils general budget consultation – an online and paper questionnaire will be produced giving people the opportunity to have their say on this proposal,</p> <p>The Museums were contacted directly to advise them of the proposal and to provide them with the opportunity to be able to advise the Council of the impact this proposed reduction in grant will have upon them.</p> <p>Brixham Town Council were also consulted on this proposal.</p> |

## Section 2: Implications and Impact Assessment

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 7. | <p><b>What are the financial and legal implications?</b></p> <p>Financial saving to the Council.</p> |
|----|--|

**8. What are the risks?**

- 1. Risk of not supporting the proposal.**  
The Council will have to find savings from elsewhere in the Council budget, which may put other services at risk.
- 2. Risk of supporting the proposal.**  
Torquay Museum and Brixham Museum could face a difficult financial future. Torquay Museum have already indicated that their current financial model is fragile, they have indicated there is pressure within their budget and a reduction in grant funding from the council could impact on their future sustainability.

Should the museums close as a result of this, there is the risk that there is a negative impact on the ability of residents and visitors to the Bay to undertake a museum cultural experience.

**9. Public Services Value (Social Value) Act 2012**

N/A

**10. What evidence / data / research have you gathered in relation to this proposal?**

Discussions have taken place with Torquay Museum who have expressed concerns about their future sustainability without any support from Torbay Council.

**11. What are key findings from the consultation you have carried out?**

Feedback from the budget questionnaire in relation to this proposal is outlined below:

**To remove the grant funding to Torquay and Brixham Museums.**

This proposal is expected to save £28,000 in 2018/19 and £27,000 in 2019/20.

*The proposed budget for next year would be £27,000.*

|              | Do you support this proposal? |               | Do you feel this proposal will impact on you? |               |
|--------------|-------------------------------|---------------|---|---------------|
|              | Number                        | Percent       | Number  | Percent       |
| Yes          | 147                           | 38.4%         | 136   | 35.5%         |
| No           | 231                           | 60.3%         | 214   | 55.9%         |
| No answer    | 5                             | 1.3%          | 33  | 8.6%          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>383</b>                    | <b>100.0%</b> | <b>383</b>                                    | <b>100.0%</b> |

Representations were also received from a number of organisations, a summary of this feedback is outlined below:

**Brixham Heritage Museum and History Society:**

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
|                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed reduction would mean a 50% reduction in their overall grant and further to financial changes they made in 2017 would mean that the museum would be forced to end its current provision to the community.</li> <li>• This would result in a loss of education programmes / free events offered to schools.</li> <li>• Withdrawal from participating in UNESCO Global Geopark events.</li> <li>• Withdrawal from local events such as Brixfest, fish stock etc.</li> <li>• Reduction would jeopardise the museums ability to attract additional grant funding.</li> <li>• Many organisations use the museum for as a source of accurate historical information.</li> </ul> <p><b>Individual representations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good standard of artefacts which allow visitors to undertake accurate research.</li> <li>• The museums are a unique resource for researchers of Devon History.</li> <li>• Cuts to funding would discourage other funding bodies from making grants.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>12</b></p> <p>.</p> | <p><b>Amendments to Proposal / Mitigating Actions</b></p> <p>The proposal is to maintain current funding levels for museums in Torbay for 2018/19 and for 2019/20. This is an amendment to the original proposal following further consideration and consultation feedback.</p> <p>The original proposal was to cease the grant currently paid to Torquay Museum and Brixham Museum.</p>   |

## Equality Impacts

| 13 | Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups   |                 |                                      |                |
|----|---|-----------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
|    |   | Positive Impact | Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions | Neutral Impact |
|    | Older or younger people   |                 | No differential impact               |                |
|    | People with caring Responsibilities   |                 | No differential impact               |                |
|    | People with a disability  |                 | No differential impact               |                |
|    | Women or men  |                 | No differential impact               |                |
|    | People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) <i>(Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)</i> |                 | No differential impact               |                |
|    | Religion or belief (including lack of belief)   |                 | No differential impact               |                |
|    | People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual   |                 | No differential impact               |                |
|    | People who are transgendered  |                 | No differential impact               |                |
|    | People who are in a marriage or civil partnership   |                 | No differential impact               |                |
|    | Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave   |                 | No differential impact               |                |

|           |   |   |   |
|-----------|---|---|---|
|           |   |   |   |
|           | Socio-economic impacts<br>(Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)  |   | Should the museums close as a result of this proposal, the cultural offer and potential tourism within Torbay will be reduced.                  |
|           | Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)                           |   | Cultural engagement is shown to have an impact on positive mental health, the cultural offer across Torbay may be reduced if the museums close. |
| <b>14</b> | <b>Cumulative Impacts – Council wide</b><br>(proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above)          | None anticipated.   |   |
| <b>15</b> | <b>Cumulative Impacts – Other public services</b><br>(proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above) | There are partnership links between the museum including Torre Abbey and other cultural and event partnerships with the museums across the Bay. |   |