

NATIONAL CIVIL WAR CENTRE – NEWARK MUSEUM – PROCESS TO MAINTAIN NATIONALLY STYLED ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND ACCREDITATION

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform Members of the process and policies to maintain official Arts Council England (ACE) nationally styled accreditation for the National Civil War Centre – Newark Museum (NCWC).
- 1.2 To provide Members with broad understanding of the expected scope of the NCWC by the official accreditation body.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 National Civil War Centre – Newark Museum was awarded nationally styled accreditation on 29 November 2017. The award of nationally styled accreditation recognises our remit as a national centre and acknowledges that our practices reflect the working practices of an organisation of national status.
- 2.2 The official accreditation of Museums is undertaken by ACE. Accreditation exists to give the public, donors, trusts and all who come in contact with the Museum the confidence that the body is properly constituted, well managed and will serve the best interests of the community and collection.
- 2.3 There are three types of accreditation available to museums: standard, nationally styled and national. National accreditation is only available to national museums centrally funded by the Department of Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS)
- 2.4 Nationally styled accreditation is a higher award than standard accreditation and demands that we frequently refresh our policies and procedures to reflect best practice in order to maintain the award.
- 2.5 Nationally styled accreditation expects the National Civil War Centre - Newark Museum to develop and grow its national content and remit. To support this requirement new additional permanent exhibitions will be installed on the first floor in 2018 under the working title of *The World Turned Upside Down*.
- 2.6 Accreditation is a minimum benchmark for grant giving bodies such as Heritage Lottery Fund, Wolfson Foundation, ACE, Museums Development East Midlands, East Midlands Museum Service and professional bodies such as the Museums' Association and Association of Independent Museums. Without accreditation NCWC would not have access to any external funding.
- 2.7 Accreditation is a minimum requirement for other Museums to loan material to the NCWC. Existing loans from the Royal Armouries, Museum of London, Science Museum, Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust, Army Medical Services Museum and University of Leicester Library Special Collections are only possible by NCWC holding accreditation.

3.0 Proposals

3.1 The attached policies are reviewed by Economic Development Committee and any questions or observations raised with the Assistant Business Manager – Heritage, Culture & Visitors;

National Civil War Centre – Newark Museum – Forward Plan 2017 – 2020 (**Appendix One**)
Collections Development Policy (**Appendix Two**)
Access Policy (**Appendix Three**)

4.0 Equalities Implications

4.1 The policies underpinning the work of the National Civil War Centre – Newark Museum have maximising equal access at their heart. All public areas enjoy physical access, interpretation has many levels to ensure intellectual access and visual impaired guides are in development for the permanent galleries. The work to expand the scope of volunteers' roles, to have a 'Young Curators Group' and to continue to work with existing community groups demonstrate the Museum Service's commitment to Equalities.

5.0 Impact on Budget/Policy Framework

5.1 Expenditure to support activities towards maintaining nationally styled accreditation will be maintained within existing budgets.

5.2 Nationally styled accreditation opens up further opportunities to access grant funding to support the operation of the NCWC.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that:

(a) the following policies are approved by Committee:

- (i) National Civil War Centre – Newark Museum – Forward Plan 2016 – 2020;**
- (ii) Collections Development Policy; and**
- (iii) Access Policy**

(b) the Committee agrees to review any future name change of the National Civil War Centre - Newark Museum at an appropriate time in conjunction with the Destination Management Plan and to suitably reflect the purpose and vision of the centre.

Reason for Recommendations

To ensure the long term future of the National Civil War Centre – Newark Museum, its proper management, its access to grant funding, object loans and training opportunities.

Background Papers - Nil

For further information please contact Carol King on Ext 5257

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