

REPORT TO THE SCRUTINY PANEL – PEOPLE
DATE 2nd FEBRUARY 2012

Status: For Comment
Title: **Harborough Museum – Development of New Business Model**
Originator: **Jayne Wisely – Cultural Services Manager**
Where from: **Environment and Leisure Services**
Where to next: **Subject to Recommendations**

Objective: To receive comments/recommendations from the Scrutiny Panel on the proposed future business model for Harborough Museum.

1. Outcome sought from Panel

1.1 Comments/recommendations from the Scrutiny Panel on the proposed future business model for Harborough Museum.

2 Background

2.1 At its Meeting of 9th June 2011 the Scrutiny Panel – People recommended that:

“a business plan be produced for the Market Harborough Museum. The three parties who contribute to the running of the museum (Harborough District Council, the Market Harborough Historical Society and Leicestershire County Council) should be involved in the production of this document. Following production, this document should be brought before the Scrutiny Panel – People for inspection”

(Council Minutes 57, 2011/12).

3 Points for discussion

3.1 The Council’s Executive considered this matter at its meeting on 19th December 2011 and resolved that:

“(i) Harborough Museum become an Independent organisation with its own Governing Body.

(ii) the establishment of a project board to oversee the development of a sustainable business model and implementation plan for the management and operation of Harborough Museum be approved

Summary of reasons

During the 2011/12 strategic business planning process Members approved a budget of £48,000 for the provision of Harborough Museum, this was made up of £40K allocation for the payment of the Museum Assistant and £8K NNDR. In addition, it was requested that the future provision and operation of Harborough Museum be considered and a report brought to Executive for discussion.

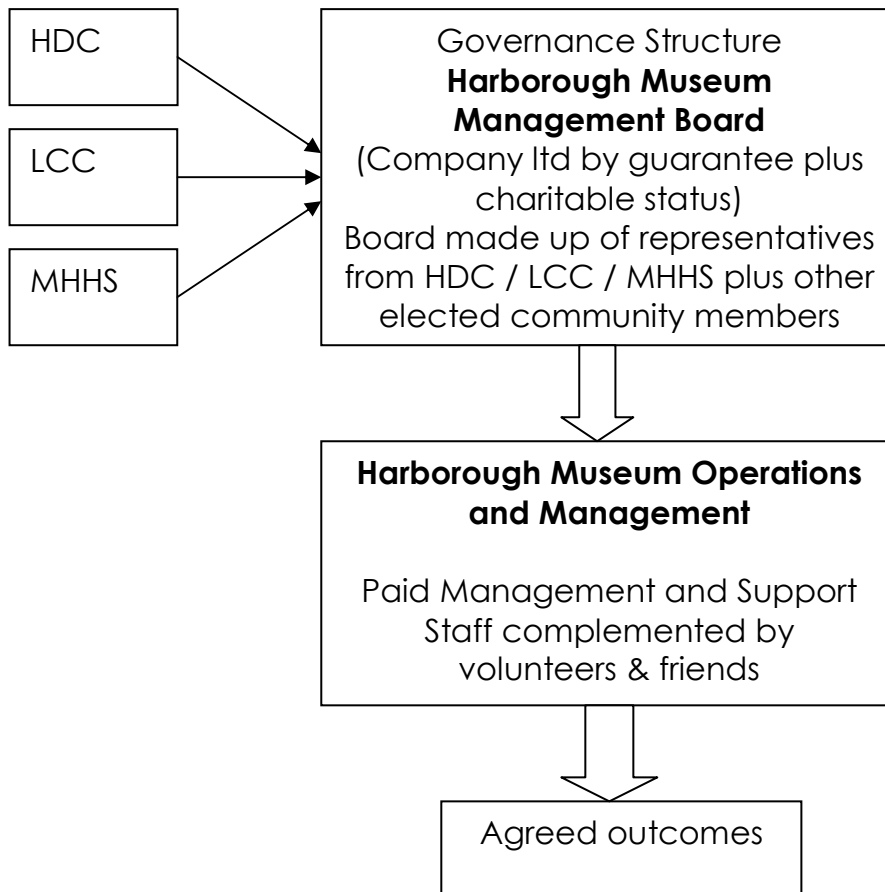
During the current financial, year an interim review of the Museum has been undertaken to allow for the Museum Assistant salary budget to match the allocated funding available. The outcome of this has meant a reduction in number of Museum Assistants from five to four, a reduction in opening days / hours and a net reduction in Museum Assistant contracted hours. As the major funder for the Hallaton Treasure project, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) was consulted on the reduced opening and the Board approved a report submitted to them in June this year – (report Appendix A).

The project board will be made up of Members and Officers from both Harborough District Council (HDC) Leicestershire County Council (LCC) and Members of Market Harborough Historical Society (MHHS). A draft Terms of Reference for the project board can be seen in Appendix B to the report

The MHHS have been successful in applying to LCC for a Big Society grant. The funding received will support a Feasibility Study to be undertaken, and subsequent Action Plan produced. The feasibility study will be undertaken by an independent consultant employed by MHHS. The purpose of the Feasibility Study is to provide options for a sustainable and more viable long term business model for the operation of the museum. This will include governance structures and operational requirements. Leading on from the Feasibility Study will be an implementation plan to achieve the new Museum structure. This action plan may supersede the draft timescales identified in Appendix C. to the report This work will be overseen by the proposed project board.

The diagram below is an illustration of a governance and business model and how it could operate. It reflects the independence from each of the partner organisation, but still allowing direct input into the Management Board, along with the recruitment of Board Members from the wider community.”

(Council Minute 369 2011/12)



Any governance structure model that is introduced would need to limit the number of Members / Officer on the board of trustees to less than 20%, from both the District and County Council. This is to ensure that it is not a Local Authority controlled company.

4 Equality Impact Assessment Implications/Outcomes (attach completed EIA)

4.1 No matters arising directly from this report.

5 Impact on Communities

5.1 As set out in the 19th December 2011 Executive report.

6 Legal Issues

6.1 As set out in the 19th December 2011 Executive report.

7 Resource Issues

7.1 As set out in the 19th December 2011 Executive report.

8 Community Safety Implications

8.1 As set out in the 19th December 2011 Executive report.

9 Carbon Management Implications

9.1 As set out in the 19th December 2011 Executive report.

10 Risk Management Implications

10.1 As set out in the 19th December 2011 Executive report.

11 Consultation

11.1 As set out in the 19th December 2011 Executive report.

12 Background Papers

12.1 Executive report, 19th December 2011 (attached at Appendix 1(A)).

Previous report(s): Y/N

Information Issued Under Sensitive Issue Procedure: Y/N

Appendices: