

**Open Report on behalf of Jenny Gammon, Assistant Director of Economy and Culture**

Report to:	<b>Executive Councillor for Economic Development</b>
Date:	<b>29 June 2012</b>
Subject:	<b>Ratification of Disposal Panel Recommendations</b>
Decision Reference:	<b>02060</b>
Key decision?	<b>No</b>

**Summary:**

This paper presents the recommendations of the Museums Disposal Panel, which met on 9th March 2012.

The panel considered 3 separate lots (each the subject of a detailed individual Disposal Panel Report - see Appendices A-C) and made recommendations for the disposal/non disposal of these objects.

The Panel's recommendations are made within the context of the local policy (Acquisition and Disposal Policy: Museums, Archives and Local Studies, 2010 - Executive Decision No. 1664: 29.01.09) and national professional standards/guidance. The proposed disposals are all in accordance with this framework, and the Executive Councillor is asked to approve the Disposal Panel's recommendations.

The notes from March's Disposal Panel meeting are also attached for reference (Appendix D).

**Recommendation(s):**

To approve the Disposal Panel's recommendations.

**Alternatives Considered:**

1. Do not approve the Disposal Panel's recommendations.

**Reasons for Recommendation:**

- The Disposal Panel is made up of individuals from a variety of backgrounds and experience and is governed by clear terms of reference.
- The recommended disposals adhere to agreed policy and procedures and are supported by the Disposal Panel.
- Any additional requirements raised by the Disposal Panel have been met.

- The recommended disposal of these items would benefit the community and the service and there are no significant risks involved in disposing of these items.

## 1. Background

- 1.1 The *Acquisition and Disposal Policy* (approved by Executive Decision Number 1664, 29 January 2010) enables staff to manage the acquisition and disposal of collections across museums, archives and local studies in an effective and professional manner. A core element to the Acquisition and Disposal Policy was the advent of a Disposal Panel to consider this issue (Section 6.1.6).
- 1.2 There are a number of legal and strategic/guidance documents that have a direct influence on the work of the Panel, these include: Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA): *Museum Accreditation Standard* (2004) SPECTRUM: *The UK Museum Documentation Standard* (2007) Museums Association: *Code of Ethics* (2008) Museums Association: *Disposal Toolkit* (2008). These documents, and a number of others, heavily influenced the scope and content of the *Acquisition and Disposal Policy*.
- 1.3 First and foremost the Panel are there to help the County Council consider what is in its cultural collections and specifically what local Collections Access Officers believe may no longer be 'suitable' to keep for a variety of reasons. By having people on the Panel with a range of backgrounds, knowledge and experience, it is hoped that the Panel will act as a valuable channel for discussing and influencing Council practice and decision-making in this area.
- 1.4 The Museums Panel meets twice a year as part of a sequence of activity aimed at delivering an efficient and effective means of handling disposal of cultural heritage collections, and makes recommendations to the governing body. Under the County Council's Constitution this means the Executive Councillor with responsibility for Culture which includes Museums.

## 2. Conclusion

- 2.1 The Executive Councillor is asked to approve the recommendations of the Disposals Panel of 9<sup>th</sup> March 2012 for the following reasons:
  - 2.1.1 Appendix A, Report 1 - (DPR 1 Pianos 090312 0001 v2)
    - None of these objects are current used for display and none of them have been used for display in the past.
    - None are in working order and all would take considerable resource to make them workable or displayable.
    - None of the items are deemed to be 'significant'; likewise, due to lack of documentation, there is no way to establish special local provenance other than to say they have at some time belonged to and used by people living in Lincolnshire.

- None were produced by a Lincolnshire maker
- Another reason for disposal is also clearly 'duplication'.
- At best, all these objects are going to be used for is set dressing rather than as a display of musical instruments. MLL is not a music museum, and there are no plans for developments in this area.

2.1.2 Appendix B, Report (DPR 2 BBC Outside Broadcast Vehicle 090312 0002 v2)

- At present we do not have the expertise to fully look after the car.
- It has sat with no interpretation, out of context, in the corner of the external display area open to the elements since 1989.
- It is rapidly approaching a point where it will require serious intervention.

2.1.3 Appendix C, Report 3 – (DPR 3 Tilley Fire Cart 090312 0003)

- The item was accessioned in error and the donor's family now would like to see returned.

2.2 All additional requirements and clarifications sought by the Disposals Panel have been acted upon. A summary of these requirements can be found embedded within Appendix D: *Notes of Disposal Panel Meeting 090312*.

2.3 With regard to the BBC Outside Broadcast Vehicle, the Collections Access Team have approached the Lincolnshire Vintage Vehicle Society (LVVS) to discuss a possible disposal/transfer. Unfortunately, although LVVS are very interested in the vehicle, they do not have the capacity or space to take on the car at the present time and do not foresee being able to accommodate the vehicle in the next couple of years. It was agreed that both parties would remain in contact about this item and revisit possible disposal/transfer in due course. However, other museums or interested parties may be interested in acquiring the vehicle.

**3. Legal Comments:**

The recommendations are lawful, consistent with the Policy Framework and within the remit of the Executive Councillor.

**4. Resource Comments:**

The recommendations of the Disposal Panel are unlikely to have any direct financial impact on the service.

## 5. Consultation

### a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

### b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

n/a

### c) Scrutiny Comments

This has not been considered by a scrutiny committee.

### d) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

## 6. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	DPR 1 Pianos 090312 0001 v2
Appendix B	DPR 2 BBC Car 090312 0002 v2
Appendix C	DPR 3 Tilley Fire Cart 090312 0003
Appendix D	Notes of Disposal Panel Meeting 090312

## 7. Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Acquisition and Disposal Policy: Museums, Archives and Local Studies (2010)	Online, Museum/Archives sites

This report was written by Mark McCree, Collections Access Manager, Economy and Culture, who can be contacted on 0791 7072718 or [mark.mccree@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:mark.mccree@lincolnshire.gov.uk)