

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

Report to:	Councillor E J Poll
Date:	19 October 2012
Subject:	Ratification of Disposal Panel Recommendations
Decision Reference:	02105
Key decision?	No

Summary:

This paper presents the recommendations of the Museums Acquisition and Disposal Panel, which met on 7th September 2012.

The panel considered and supported three recommendations for disposal:

Early Victorian Framed Embroidery Picture made from human hair
LCNLL : 1975/2

Fowler Steam Ploughing Harrow or Hoe
LCNLL : 1995/544

Caravan/Showman's Wagon
LCNLL 1974/952

The Executive Councillor is asked to approve the Acquisition and Disposal Panel's recommendations.

The Panel's recommendations are all made in accordance with national professional standards, guidance and the County Council's Acquisition and Disposal Policy: Museums, Archives and Local Studies, which was adopted under Executive Decision No. 1664: 29.01.10.

Recommendation(s):

To approve the Acquisition and Disposal Panel's recommendations.

Alternatives Considered:

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

Reasons for Recommendation:

The Acquisition and 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 Acquisition and Disposal Panel.

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 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 County Council's *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 Disposal 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. Recommendations from the Disposals Panel of 7th September 2012

2.1 Early Victorian Framed Embroidery Picture made from human hair (LCNLL : 1975/2, see Appendix A, Report 1 DPR 1 070912 0001 v2)

- 2.1.1 This item is recommended for disposal because the picture was incorrectly accessioned and the donor, Lincoln Cathedral would like it to be returned to them.
- 2.2 Fowler Steam Ploughing Harrow or Hoe
(LCNLL : 1995/544 Appendix B, Report 2 DPR 2 070912 0002 v2)
- 2.2.1 The Museum of East Anglian Life (MEAL) has asked to acquire this item in order to restore and work it to demonstrate steam harrowing between two steam ploughing engines at the museum. Granting their request would enable the public to see the object in action, increase access to it, improve its display context and also support MEAL in their mission.
- 2.2.2 This recommendation is in line with national guidance, the Museum Association's *Effective Collections / Revisiting Collections Guidelines*, and our own *Working Collections Strategy*
- 2.2.3 There is no space or current, suitable means to ever display the Harrow at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life or elsewhere in the Service, or make internal storage space available.
- 2.3 Caravan/Showman's Wagon.
(LCNLL 1974/952 Appendix C, Report 3 DPR 3 070912 0003)
- 2.3.1 This is an object with a large storage footprint and the item has not been on display for more than 20 years.
- 2.3.2 The emerging Museum of Lincolnshire Life re-development project, and in particular the Butterworth's storage project element, has highlighted that there are higher priority objects that should be stored inside and it is likely that the caravan will be stored outside following the improvements.
- 2.3.3 The Heritage Service's draft *Rationalisation Strategy* (emerging, 2012) has identified this re-development project, and items within the Butterworth's building specifically, to be a key focus for possible rationalisation in 2012/13.
- 2.3.4 The caravan does not fit tightly with the re-focussed *Collections Development Strategy*.
- 2.3.5 The item is not in a condition where it could be displayed or interpreted at present.
- 2.3.5 The item was not assessed as a significant object when the *Working Collections Strategy* was generated and it needs considerable work to stabilise. There is no capacity within LCC now or within the foreseeable future to care or improve the wagon's condition. Resources are being focused on items identified within the *Working Collections Strategy* as being priority, so it is unlikely to receive financial investment too.

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

3. Legal Comments:

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

4. Resource Comments:

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

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	Early Victorian Framed Embroidery Picture made from human hair. LCNLL : 1975/2 DPR 1 090312 0001 v2
Appendix B	Fowler Steam Ploughing Harrow or Hoe. LCNLL : 1995/544 DPR 2 090312 0002 v2
Appendix C	Caravan/Showman's Wagon. LCNLL 1974/952 DPR 3 090312 0003 v2
Appendix D	Notes of Acquisition and Disposal Panel Meeting 070912

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)	LCC Connects, Museum and Archive sites
Collections Development Strategy (LCC, Heritage Service, 2011)	LCC Connects, Museum and Archive sites
Working Collections Strategy (LCC, Heritage Service 2011)	LCC Connects, Museum and Archive sites
Notes of Notes of Acquisition and Disposal Panel Meeting 070912	Appendix D of this report.

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