

Cake Decoration

SECTION 1

1.1 Description of Object/Objects



The item in question is a cake decoration in the shape of the Montanari Doll. This icing replica of the Montanari Doll comes from the cake made to celebrate the purchase of the actual Montanari Doll for the Museum's collection. There is a rectangular piece of icing, on which is placed the doll - dress in cream, face and hands skin coloured, face painted, with blue foam bow around waist, lace frills and a bonnet. This cake icing decoration was made by Cakes for all Occasions in 1989.

1.2 Reason For Disposal

There are three key reasons for disposal:

Items for which the Service is unable to provide adequate care – we are unable to preserve foodstuffs indefinitely.

Items that are damaged or deteriorated beyond the Service's ability to repair – the icing has become very brittle and is disintegrating into small pieces. It is also discolouring to an unpleasant grey colour, and mould is appearing.

Health and Safety – the cake decoration was not made with any special preservative ingredients. There is evidence of mould forming in several places and it is badly discoloured and also smells very unpleasant. It is not fit for display and has no research benefit.

1.3 Suggested Means of Disposal & Reason

Item should be destroyed and thrown away. It is unsuitable for transfer to another institution.

1.4 Impact Statement

At the time that the doll was acquired and the cake was made, there was a lot of interest in the local press and it was recorded that the Museum intended to try and preserve the icing replica of the doll. Therefore, there is a potential risk that there may be a request to see the icing doll at some point in the future.

On the night of the 'launch' of the doll, at which the cake was featured, the Council members who attended expressed how impressed they were with the cake and subsequently the Chief Executive of LCC wrote to the lender, who made the cake, to congratulate her. In this letter it says that the Museum Curator, hoped it might be possible to preserve the icing doll. In addition, the then Assistant Curator wrote to the lender to thank her for her donation of the cake and to tell her that the icing doll was being preserved for future generations.

However, in its current state there is no possibility of the icing doll being used or displayed. In addition, within the local press article, it was expressed as an intent to 'try' to preserve the icing doll, with the understanding that it might not be possible.

The benefits would be that a potential source of mould and pest infestation in the stores will be removed, any health and safety concerns regarding staff being exposed to mould and deteriorating foodstuff will be alleviated. The space that the doll takes up can be used to store other objects.

1.5 Other Considerations

There are no cost implications to the disposal of the icing doll.

1.6 Recommendation

That the icing sugar replica doll be destroyed and disposed of to remove a source of mould from the stores and to prevent any possible Health and Safety concerns from arising.

SECTION 2

(to be completed by Disposal Panel)

2.1 Panel Decision

Fully agree with Disposal Report Section 1 recommendation

Agree with Disposal Report Section 1 recommendation, with additional requirements/
comment (section 2.2)

Disagree with Disposal Report recommendation for reasons given below (section 2.2)

2.2 Additional Comments

*Caveats/questions regarding disposal; reasons for disagreeing with recommendation;
raise points requiring further clarification, for inclusion in Exec. Cllr. Report or resolution
prior to submitting this report..*

Signed: Jonathan Platt (Chair of Disposal Panel)

Date: 11/1/11

SECTION 3

(to be completed by Collections Officer)

3.1 Exec Report No _____

3.2 Exec Decision No _____

3.3 Action / Date Completed _____

Ensure a copy of the Authority deaccession/disposal form is attached to this sheet

3.4 Name, Contact Details & Status of Recipient

Accredited museum, private museum etc.

3.5 New Location and Number of Object

For future access, should enquiries come in.

3.6 Benefits Achieved for the Service/Object:

Short summary tying back to section 1.4