

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Recreation, Heritage, Countryside and Rural Affairs
Date:	19 March
Title:	Winchester Discovery Centre – Future Strategy
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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1. The decision:

1.1 That the Executive Member for Recreation, Heritage, Countryside and Rural Affairs:

- i. Approves plans to proceed with the proposed partnership model, subject to agreement being reached by both parties on final details of the arrangement.
- ii. Approves the commercial principles as set out in paragraph 48 and delegates authority to the Director of CCBS in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Corporate Resources and the Head of Legal Services to conclude the detailed financial agreement in line with the commercial principles.
- iii. Notes the HR implications as set out in paragraphs 57 to 62.
- iv. Authorises any other steps be taken that are reasonably necessary in order to implement the above recommendations.

1.2 That Executive Member notes that the following proposals are due to be considered at a future Executive Member for Commercial Strategy, Human Resources and Performance Decision Day:

- v. The detailed property arrangements by which the operational responsibility for WDC is transferred to HCT (including the nature and duration of tenure).

- vi. The detailed programme of property refurbishment and improvement outlined in paragraphs 63 to 67.
- vii. Proposals to transfer employment of some Hampshire County Council Catering Service ('HC3S') staff to HCT.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. Hampshire Library Service (the Library Service) and Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT) have been working closely to explore ways to strengthen their existing partnership at Winchester Discovery Centre (WDC).
- 2.2. Following an extensive feasibility study, a new service delivery model is proposed for WDC, whereby HCT assumes full operational responsibility for the building, including all cultural programming. The Library Service will continue to deliver library services, including book and magazine lending, public IT access and safe community space, within an expanded, culturally led venue.
- 2.3. This model builds upon a track record of achievement and partnership work that will enable both organisations to realise financial benefits, increase public access and participation, and secure investment at a time of major financial challenge. It reduces dependency upon local authority funding, whilst maximising income generation and fundraising opportunities.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1 Alternative bids were received and evaluated but were unsuccessful.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1 Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None
- 4.2 Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: None

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: Not applicable

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

19 March 2021

Councillor Edward Heron

Executive Member for Recreation, Heritage, Countryside
and Rural Affairs