

RUSSELL COTES ART GALLERY AND MUSEUM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



Report subject	Update on Progress on the Museum's Forward Plan (2020 - 2024)
Meeting date	30 January 2023
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>The Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum Forward Plan (2020-2024) outlines the museum's strategic objectives as required by Arts Council England (ACE) Museum Accreditation.</p> <p>This Update gives Management Committee Members an understanding of progress to date against these objectives and the planned actions to come. The Museum has made good progress in some areas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • driving investment to the conservation of the fabric of the building (MEND) • conservation of items in the collection; • improvements to the room displays and interpretation • development of popular programming and events. • more focussed marketing <p>However, the review of governance has proven to be complex and challenging. The Update enables Management Committee to review progress and make suggestions for future activities and actions.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>The Management Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • note the progress made against the strategic objectives identified in the Forward Plan • review the future activity planned • recommend any further actions and activities to be undertaken to achieve them.
Reason for recommendations	The Forward Plan was agreed in January 2020 to establish the formal objectives of the Museum over the subsequent 5 years as required by ACE Museum Accreditation. It is the responsibility of

	the Trustee to provide oversight of the Museum and its activities.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Beverley Dunlop, Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Culture and Vibrant Places
Corporate Director	Jess Gibbon, Chief Operations Officer
Report Authors	Sarah Newman, Museum Manager Michael Spender, Head of Culture Chris Saunders, Director Destination and Culture
Wards	Not applicable
Classification	For Update

Background

1. ACE Museum Accreditation requires that every museum produces a 5 year Forward Plan to identify its strategic objectives. An accompanying Action Plan is a working document outlining the steps to their achievement. A 2 year budget is normally included.
2. The Russell-Cotes Forward Plan (2020 -2024) was agreed by the Management Committee in January 2020 at a time of uncertainty around governance change and available budget and was therefore limited in scope.

Progress Made in the Forward Plan

3. Although uncertainty on governance and budget has persisted, the objectives laid out in the Forward Plan have proved useful in providing clear priorities to staff at a time of ongoing uncertainty and major challenge.
4. Appendix 1 provides a summary of the 7 agreed objectives, recent progress and the action plan for the next year.
5. With the exception of governance change, which has proven to be slow and complex to advance, good progress has been made in most areas, notably
 - a. improvements to the fabric of the building (roof works and MEND project)
 - b. conservation of specific collection items,
 - c. investment in new displays (ACE and DCMS/Wolfson funded);
 - d. the development of varied and popular programming and events
 - e. increased income generation
 - f. more focussed and cost-effective marketing
6. In 2020, it was anticipated that a comprehensive review would take place if the Museum moved to full Trust status and a new Forward Plan would be agreed.

Summary of Financial Implications

7. The outlined future activities are based on a stand-still budget (to be agreed)

Summary of Legal Implications.

8. N/A

Summary of Human Resources Implications

9. N/A

Summary of sustainability impact

10. N/A

Summary of public health implications

11. N/A

Summary of equality implications

12. N/A

Summary of risk assessment

13. N/A

Background papers

Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum Forward Plan (2020-2024)

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Forward Plan 2020 – 2024, Update on Progress Jan 2023