RUSSELL COTES ART GALLERY AND MUSEUM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Report subject	**Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum Acquisitions, Loans and Disposals Report**
Meeting date	27 October 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	To note the new acquisitions to the Collection (material owned and held in trust by the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum charity in accordance with its charitable objectives) and the loan of material to other institutions (ie public art galleries and museums) and to approve the disposal of items in the Collection which do not meet the Museum's Core Offer in accordance with the Museums Association Code of Ethics.
Recommendations	**It is RECOMMENDED that:** **The Management Committee notes and approves** **a) acquisitions** **b) loans** **c) disposals** As outlined in the Acquisitions, Loans and Disposals Report
Reason for recommendations	The recommendations are in line with the Museum's agreed policies and procedures, including its Collections Development Strategy, which outlines the areas of the collection for development and those areas which do not meet the Core Offer and are therefore subject to disposal in order to achieve a more usable, well managed collection. The process and procedures used conform to the Museums Association Code of Ethics.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Andy Martin, Portfolio Holder for Communications, Customers and Culture
Corporate Director	Glynn Barton, Chief Operations Officer
Report Authors	Duncan Walker, Curator Sarah Newman, Museum Manager
Wards	Not applicable
Classification	For Decision and update

Background

1. The Management Committee is required to note the acquisitions and loans made by the museum and to formally approve disposals from the Collection in line with the Collections Development Strategy and subject to the Museums Association Code of Ethics.

Acquisitions and Loans

2. The latest acquisitions to the Collections and loans are listed in Appendix 1 for the agreement of the Committee.

Disposals

3. The disposals are listed in Appendix 1 with further information and justification in Appendix 2 (Disposals Report).
4. The Museum is prioritizing the disposal of paintings of artworks of lesser quality to free up space in the picture stores and will approach this in tranches.
5. The first tranche consists of twenty-two paintings and drawings which have all been assessed as having no artistic merit and would not be suitable for display in the museum. The works were either bought for, or assigned to, the Picture Borrowing or Art in the Home Schemes which the museum ran from 1922 to c. 2000 to provide original art for people's homes and offices for a small rental fee.

Update on Previous Disposals

6. Two taxidermy mounts have been sent to Hampshire Cultural Trust and the pest eaten mounts have been disposed of.

Options Appraisal

7. Each action is decided on a case-by-case basis in line with the Collections Development Strategy as outlined in the report and appendices.

Summary of financial implications

8. There are minimal financial costs from most acquisitions and any financial implication (storage, conservation cost) is taken into consideration when deciding on the acquisition of material.

9. The costs of loans are borne by the borrowers and it is anticipated that the institutions which acquire disposed objects will cover costs of removal and transport.
10. Any income generated by the sale of items from the Collection is held in a restricted fund and used solely for the purposes of acquiring items for the Collection (according to the Collections Development Strategy) or conserving objects already in the Collection in compliance with the Museums Association Code of Ethics and item 16.11 of the Collections Development Strategy.

Summary of legal implications

11. All activities are carried out in line with the Museums Association Code of Ethics and the Museum's Collection Development Strategy.

Summary of human resources implications

12. n/a

Summary of sustainability impact

13. N/a

Summary of public health implications

14. n/A

Summary of equality implications

15. N/A

Summary of risk assessment

16. N/a

Background papers

Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum Collections Development Strategy. Seehttps://russellcotes.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/5-Collections-Development-Policy.pdf

Appendices

Appendix 1 Acquisitions Loans and Disposals

Appendix 2 Disposals Report