

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 10

meeting date: 7 SEPTEMBER 2010
title: MUSEUM CAPITAL SCHEME
submitted by: JOHN C HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To ask members to consider a request to Policy & Finance Committee for a supplementary estimate to the museum revenue budget.
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's Ambitions/Priorities:
 - Council Ambitions – To protect and enhance the environmental quality of the area
 - Council Aims – to be a well managed Council, providing efficient services on identified customer needs.
 - Community Objectives - to increase opportunities for people to access cultural activities.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members will be aware that the re-furbished facility has now been in operation since May 2009.
- 2.2 The scheme was broken down into a number of elements and involved a range of consultants/contractors. Lancashire County Museums Service was commissioned to provide a range of services, some of which they received payment for, and others that were provided in-kind. The main areas where they carried out paid work surrounded the fit out elements of the museum, as they had the necessary expertise.
- 2.3 Some elements of the work were able to be quantified, and so orders were placed. Other elements, such as conservation work and labelling, merely had estimates against them within the fit out budget and identified LMS as responsible.

3 CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 As almost twelve months had lapsed since the opening of the museum, the capital scheme was closed on 31 March, on the understanding that all outstanding accounts had been dealt with.
- 3.2 In June, however, we received an invoice from the Museums Service for £20,400 (reduced to £13,410 after some clarification), relating to works carried out during the museum fit out stage.

4 ISSUES

Whilst the invoice received from LMS does relate to work legitimately carried out on the project, it arrived a significant time after the scheme was completed and accounted for.

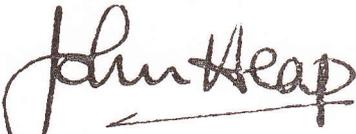
5 RISK ASSESSMENT

Approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – in order to pay the account, it would be more appropriate to include it as a supplementary estimate to the revenue budget, as the capital scheme is closed, and the work can arguably be classified as revenue in nature. This would only be a one-off addition.
- Legal, Technical – although the invoice came in very late, it does relate to work carried out on behalf of the project.
- Political – although we have raised concerns over the lateness of the invoice, we have finally concluded negotiations surrounding management arrangements, and so challenging the account may not be in our interest.

6 RECOMMENDED THAT

Committee notes the contents of the report and asks Policy & Finance Committee for a supplementary one-off estimate of £13,410 to the museum revenue budget for the current financial year.



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DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

For further information please ask for Chris Hughes 01200 414479