



WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Members of the current position regarding the Hansom Cab and its longer-term relocation to Hinckley, alongside seeking confirmation of the support from the Council to secure the funding necessary to enable the Museum premises to expand to house the Hansom Cab, once returned.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Council:

- i) note the current position with the restoration of the Hansom Cab.
- ii) confirm its support for the English Heritage Lottery Fund (EHLF) bid by Hinckley and District Museum in the form set out in paragraphs 3.5 and 3.6 of the report, subject to the views of the Asset Management Group.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Council has previously given its informal support to the restoration and relocation of the Hansom Cab within Hinckley, recognising its historical significance in the development of transport and its strong links with the town.
- 3.2 Within the last eighteen months, the Council has brokered an arrangement with Adrian Lander, Rushmere Farm, Gloucestershire, whereby they restored the Hansom Cab, with a view to its return for showcasing in Hinckley, whilst the Tantivy Stagecoach was refurbished also, but for retention and use by the company.
- 3.3 The Hansom Cab has been restored to a high standard, as confirmed by inspection by representatives of the Museum. The arrangement is that it be stored by Adrian Lander for four years from 20 March 2015, or until there is a suitable premise available in Hinckley, whichever is the sooner. It will 'visit' the town for any special events during that period, such as the Crescent celebration event on 2 July 2016. The first visit will be at no cost to the Council, with Adrian Lander's costs being covered in connection with any further visits.
- 3.4 Hinckley and District Museum is in the process of preparing a bid for funding from the English Heritage Lottery Fund to enable an extension to be built onto the Museum building to house the Hansom Cab in an appropriate environment and allow public viewing. They have been informed that the process could take up to five years and any non-financial support from the Council and others would be welcomed.
- 3.5 The Council may be minded to 'gift' the land adjacent to the Museum for this purpose. This will require consideration by the Asset Management Group, to ensure that any decision is made, taking into account the wider corporate effects on the Council's Asset base. At a recent meeting between the Council Leader and officers with Museum representatives, it has been agreed that the Council will provide additional support as follows:

- * a letter of intent, for the Museum to submit to the EHLF.
- * brokering a partnership (for mutual benefit) between the Museum and the Hinckley Town Centre Partnership/BID.
- * continue work with Adrian Lander to secure 'visits' from the Hansom Cab for significant local events.
- * use the Borough Bulletin and other media outlets to promote current and future retailers at the Museum.
- * immediately update the Council's Culture and Sports Strategy to cover the next five years and include references to this important development.
- * seek agreement to the 'gifting' of the land adjacent to the Museum for the purposes of the extension, subject to the views of the Asset Management Group.

3.6 Members are asked to confirm the actions set out in paragraph 3.5 above, as a package of measures to provide partnership support to the Museum in our joint endeavours to secure the return to the Hansom Cab to Hinckley in due course, including the 'gifting' of the plot of land to the Museum as an 'in kind' contribution to its bid to the EHLF, subject to the views of the Asset Management Group.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (IB)

4.1 Officer time on the project will be met from existing budgets

4.2 Although the area has not been formally valued it is estimated the plot is worth approximately £30,000. If the plot was gifted to the Museum the value would be shown as a loss in the income and expenditure account and reversed out as part of the statutory accounting adjustments made to the General Fund. Therefore there would no impact on the General Fund. However a future potential capital receipt from the sale of the site would be lost.

4.3 Another potential option could be to lease the land to the Museum over a period of say 35, 50 or 99 years at a peppercorn value. However this may impact on the EHLF bid.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (MR)

5.1 Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers the Council to dispose of its land.

5.2 'Disposal' includes a sale of the freehold interest and the grant of an easement.

5.3 The Council cannot dispose of its land for a consideration less than the best that can be reasonably obtained in the market, except with the express consent of the Secretary of State, unless the disposal complies with the terms and conditions set out in the Local Government Act 1972 General Disposal Consent (England) 2003.

5.4 The General Disposal Consent states that specific consent is not required for the disposal of any interest in land which the Council considers will help it secure the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of the borough.

5.5 The Council should have regard to the terms of the General Disposal Consent in considering the terms on which it would dispose of its interest in the land and in

particular that the land in question is held under powers which permit it to be disposed of under the terms of the Local Government Act 1972.

- 5.6 Where the land proposed to be disposed of is open space land, the Council is required further to advertise its intention in a local newspaper for two consecutive weeks and to consider objections; this should be done before any final decision is taken so that proper consideration is given to any responses received.
- 5.7 Section 14 of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 empowers the Council to make contributions towards expenses incurred by any person in providing or maintaining a museum.

6. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Creating a vibrant place to work and live
- 6.2 Empowering communities

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Discussion has been ongoing with representatives of Hinckley and District Museum and will continue on a regular basis over coming months.

8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.
- 8.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.
- 8.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Without formal and 'in kind' support from the Council/Town Centre Partnership, the bid for Lottery Funding may be delayed/fail and the facility to house the Hansom Cab may be lost.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Council approval of formal support * Broker arrangement with Town Centre Partnership * Agree 'gift' of land 	Chief Executive

9. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The Hansom Cab has a significant place in history and is closely associated with Hinckley. The success of the plan to relocate and house the cab in Hinckley will enable present and future generations across the Borough and more widely to have access to this local heritage.

10. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety implications
 - Environmental implications
 - ICT implications
 - Asset Management implications
 - Human Resources implications
 - Planning Implications
 - Voluntary Sector
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Background papers:

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