

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 15 May 2023

Portfolio:	Leisure and Community
Subject:	Hampshire Cultural Trust
Report of:	Director of Leisure and Community
Corporate Priorities:	Leisure Opportunities for Health and Fun

Purpose:

To consider a request by Hampshire Cultural Trust for a variation to the current management agreement held with Fareham Borough Council in respect of Westbury Manor Museum.

Executive summary:

In June 2016, the Executive approved a new 10-year management agreement (2017-2027) for the lease of Westbury Manor to Hampshire Cultural Trust for the provision of a museum service.

The agreement included investment of £448,000 by the Council towards the refurbishment of Westbury Manor Museum to improve its condition, amenities, and the overall visitor experience. In exchange for the capital investment, the contribution previously made by the Council towards the cost of operating the Museum ended and Hampshire Cultural Trust agreed to operate the Museum without any ongoing financial contribution from the Council.

In response to the impact of Covid and the current economic climate, Hampshire Cultural Trust have undertaken a review of all 24 venues that it manages across Hampshire, with focus on the venues for which no local authority funding is received.

This has resulted in a request for a variation to the management agreement.

Recommendation/Recommended Option:

It is recommended that the Executive agrees that there is no variation to the management agreement.

Reason:

To inform the Executive of the request that Hampshire Cultural Trust has made.

Cost of proposals:

These are detailed in the confidential business plan in Appendix A.

Appendices: A: Confidential Business Plan

**Reference papers: Executive Report 6 June 2016 – Westbury Manor
Museum Re-Modelling Proposal**

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Executive Briefing Paper

Date:	15 May 2023
Subject:	Hampshire Cultural Trust
Briefing by:	Director of Leisure and Community
Portfolio:	Leisure and Community

INTRODUCTION

1. In 2017, Hampshire Cultural Trust entered into a 10-year agreement (2017 – 2027) with the Council to operate Westbury Manor Museum.
2. The agreement included investment of £448,000 by the Council towards the refurbishment of Westbury Manor Museum. In exchange for the capital investment, the contribution previously made by the Council towards the cost of operating the Museum ended, and Hampshire Cultural Trust agreed to operate the Museum without any ongoing revenue contribution from the Council.
3. Under the terms of the lease the Council retained responsibility for the lift and boilers, as well as the exterior of the building, including the roof, the forecourt and the rear garden.

HAMPSHIRE CULTURAL TRUST REVIEW

4. In response to economic pressures, Hampshire Cultural Trust have carried out a review of the venues that it manages, with a specific focus on the venues where they receive no local authority funding.
5. Hampshire Cultural Trust have 4 years remaining on the current 10-year management agreement with a 12-month notice period required by either party under the current agreement and lease conditions if there was a desire to end the agreement.
6. Hampshire Cultural Trust are requesting a variation to the management agreement. Details relating to their request are contained within the confidential Appendix A.

CONCLUSION

7. This report recommends that there should be no variation to the 10-year management agreement, due to the significant level of investment that was initially made by the Council.

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Emma Watts, Leisure and Community Manager Tel 01329 824440