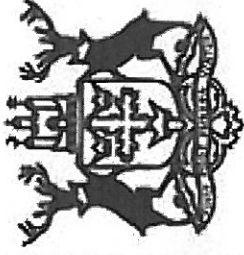


Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

Author:

Department:

Contact:

2025
Ron Inglis
Communities
Ron Inglis
(Job Title: Service Manager [Museums & Galleries], Email: ron.inglis@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 01158761410)

Subject:

Proposed museum acquisition

Total Value:

£27,000 + VAT [maximum] (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

To approve the proposed purchase for Newstead Abbey of a portrait of 'Little' Sir John Byron dated 1599 at a maximum cost of £27,000, subject to grant aid to be sought from The Art Fund (£7,500) and the ACE/V&A Purchase Grant Fund (£13,500). Further grant contributions of £5,000 offered by The Friends of the Nottingham Museums and £1,000 from public donations have already been secured.
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Reasons for the Decision(s)

The portrait is of very considerable historic significance with regard to Newstead Abbey and the Byron family : 'Little' Sir John Byron inherited Newstead Abbey in 1567 from his father, Sir John Byron of Colwick (to whom Newstead had been granted by Henry VIII in 1540). The portrait was commissioned by 'Little' Sir John in 1599 and was displayed at Newstead Abbey until about the time the poet Byron sold the house in 1818. It was then owned by the poet's sister Mrs Augusta Leigh and kept at her apartment in St James' Palace from about 1818 until her death in 1851. It was presumed subsequently lost or destroyed until it came to light recently in private UK collection. This is a rare opportunity to return to Newstead Abbey an especially important Byron family portrait - the earliest one known to survive. It has a long association with Newstead and is a striking visual record of one of the most colourful and legendary owners of the house. The item is fully authenticated and is in excellent condition. Both organisations are supportive of the bids but the application deadline for these funds is immediate and a commitment to purchase if grant offered is required at the application stage.

Other Options Considered:

Not to purchase the painting. This option was discounted given how rare an opportunity this is to return to Newstead Abbey an especially important Byron family portrait with a long association with Newstead.

Background Papers:

none

Published Works:

none

Affected Wards:

Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests:

none

Consultations:

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

Not applicable

Equality:

EIA not required. Reasons: Purchase of historical item - the decision does not relate to new or changing policies, services or functions.

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

No
The call-in procedure does not apply to the proposed decision because the delay likely to be caused by the call in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests. The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (or Vice-Chair) in his/her absence has been consulted and agreed both that the decision proposed is reasonable in all circumstances and that it should be treated as a matter of urgency.

Person Consulted: Cllr Brian Parbutt

Consultation Date: 04/06/2015

To enable the Service to meet the urgent grant deadline for submission to grants bodies

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance

Legal Advice:

Provided that the decision maker can be assured that the proposed purchase has been certified as authentic and that the price to be paid represents value for money then the decision of itself raises no significant legal issues and is supported. As part and parcel of the transaction clarity should be sought in respect of the responsibility for transportation and insurance costs. Equally the decision maker should be clear as to what additional insurance costs will be incurred in respect of the piece going forwards. Advice provided by Malcolm Townroe (Legal Services Manager) on 04/06/2015.

Finance Advice:

Approval has been sought to purchase the portrait of 'Little' Sir John Byron for £27,000 and to accept financing of this purchase through the external grants listed below.

	£	7,500
The Art Fund		
ACE/V & A Purchase Grant Fund	13,500	
Friends of the Nottingham Museum	5,000	
Public Donations	1,000	
Total External Funds	27,000	

Accepting these grants has little risk to the City Council and will have no effect on the Museums Service's budgets or the MTFP. Advice provided by Steve Ross (Finance Analyst) on 08/06/2015.

Signatures

David Trimble (Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture)

Approved by Councillor Trimble - rec'd 9/06/2015

John Kelly (Corporate Director Community Services)*

SIGNED

* Signed by
Ian Curry
Chief Executive
9/06/2015

