

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

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|-----------------------|---|
| Reference Number:     | 2587  |
| Author:               | Rachael Evans   |
| Department:           | Communities   |
| Contact:              | Rachael Evans<br>(Job Title: Learning, Engagement and Collections Manager, Email: rachael.evans@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 01158762190)  |
| Subject:              | Dinosaurs of China:Ground Shakers to Feathered Flyers Exhibition at Wollaton Hall 2017  |
| Total Value:          | £436,488 [£381,488 (exhibition); £55,000 (associated programme estimate)] (Type: Revenue)   |
| Decision Being Taken: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) To authorise gross expenditure on a major international exhibition at Wollaton Hall of dinosaurs from the Paleozoological Museum of China (Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology- IVPP) and Long Hao Institute of Geology and Paleontology Inner Mongolia Museum (LHIGP) in partnership with University of Nottingham.</li><li>2) Approval to dispense with Contract Procedure Rule 5.1.2 in accordance with Financial Regulation (3.29) (Operational Issues) to allow for a direct award of a contract for the loan and shipping of the 26 Dinosaur exhibits from the IVPP in Beijing and LHIGP Inner Mongolia Museum in Beijing.</li><li>3) To authorise a complementary programme of engagement, working with a range of partners, and to grant delegated authority to the Head of Culture &amp; Libraries for associated expenditure, subject to funding ability as identified within the report.</li><li>4) To delegate authority to the Service Manager for Museums and Galleries to sign contracts between NCC and IVPP and LHIGP with respect to the loan of the exhibits and all agreements between NCC and the University of Nottingham with respect to the funding support and the satellite exhibition.</li></ol> |

**Reasons for the Decision(s)**

**The proposal is for a temporary exhibition of feathered dinosaur fossils and casts on loan from the Paleozoological Museum of China (Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology- (IVPP) in Beijing and the Inner Mongolia Museum (LHIGP). The exhibition would include 26 rare dinosaur specimens, with 9 full size skeletons of key species (25 specimens from IVPP and 1 full size skeleton model from Inner Mongolia). The exhibition is proposed to take place at the Hall for a full four month period (July - October) 2017. The exhibition will be undertaken in close partnership with the University of Nottingham and would result in an additional, satellite exhibition at Lakeside Arts also.**

**In order to cover the cost of exhibition development and hire, it is proposed to charge admission to the Hall for all visitors and schools during this period, as it is a unique and additional experience. A business plan has been developed for the exhibition and this is included, as a confidential annexe, with this report. The University have entered into an agreement to facilitate fundraising and sponsorship to support the overall exhibition and a joint Executive Group has been established under joint chairmanship of the University and Museum Service. A full risk analysis has been undertaken and a robust governance structure established and marketing plan developed in consultation with the University. An engagement strategy will be developed as part of the programme to ensure participation by citizens of all backgrounds.**

**The proposed exhibition will include a range of specimens that have never before been seen in Europe and includes a number of recently- discovered**

**specimens that have only been shown during temporary exhibitions within China itself - it therefore offers the opportunity to develop a "European first" for the City of Nottingham.**

**Dinosaurs are a significant attraction as museum collections and the Jurassic Park film series has continued to popularise them and has created a firm excitement and interest in these enigmatic creatures from the Earth's ancient past.**

**The key thrust of the exhibition is that dinosaurs did not become extinct - rather, they have evolved into the birds that surround us today - an example of evolution and adaptability to climate change. It is also proposed to include some of the museum's important collection of tropical mounted birds, many of these species bear close resemblance to the ancient fossil species included in the exhibition.**

**The complexity of the loan arrangements from two Chinese institutions and the development of a satellite exhibition at the Lakeside Arts Centre will mean a series of contracts between the various parties: NCC contract with each of the two Chinese museums; NCC contract with Lakeside Arts Centre as the City Council will have lead responsibility for the exhibition programme as a whole. Dispensation from the Contract Procedure Rules is requested on the basis that IVPP and LHIGP are the sole owners of the dinosaur exhibits, which are unique items unavailable from other organisations and so without contracting with them directly, the Council would be unable to deliver this Exhibition.**

**During 2016/17, the Museums & Galleries Service will be developing a new Earth Sciences gallery within Wollaton Hall and this will include a number of marine reptile dinosaurs that have recently been identified within the Museum Collections by our Curator of Natural Sciences, Dr Adam Smith, who joined the team recently and is himself an expert palaeontologist in the field of early dinosaur development.**

**The development of this gallery is supported with funds from Arts Council England Major Partner Museum funding and would offer a significant new attraction as a companion exhibition.**

**The exhibition and supporting programme will fulfil a key strategic aim to secure the long term sustainability strategy for Wollaton Hall and the Museum Service. However, the business plan associated with this report at Annexe 1 concerns the core exhibition only. There will be a significant opportunity to create a city-wide programme through engaging external partners and for a programme of activity to take place within Wollaton Park also, creating a "Summer of Dinosaurs" promotional opportunity for increased visitor spend and profile for the City as a whole. It is proposed that this programme would be supported by a variety of means: external partner support for complementary activity undertaken directly, and alignment of existing budgets and rebranding of proposed activity taking place city-wide. This would include libraries, arts, marketing activity. In this way an ambitious complementary programme, with city-wide participation by partners, will be possible. Opportunities for additional external funding will also be sought to enhance this where possible to maximise economic benefit by increased tourism, to the city as a whole. The cost of this engagement programme is estimated to be approx £55K. The requirement of any spend for this programme will be considered by the Head of Culture and Leisure who will have the delegated authority to approve any expenditure in accordance with the funding provided under this decision.**

**Other Options Considered:**

**Do nothing**  
 It would be possible to pass up the opportunity to undertake the exhibition, but this would not raise the profile of Wollaton Hall, its important collections and provide a unique experience for visitors. It would also fail to capitalise on the city's reputation as a centre for excellence and would eliminate a key opportunity to increase the tourist economy of Nottingham.

The exhibition is a European first and it is therefore likely that the exhibition would tour to an alternative UK location, with the economic benefits and profile being gained there instead.

Doing nothing would not enable knowledge transfer to take place or enable this unique collection to be made available to citizens in Nottingham at a reasonable cost.

**Background Papers:**

**Memorandum of Understanding - Nottingham City Council, University of Nottingham, National Palaeozoological Museum of China - January 2016.**

**Unpublished background papers:**

**Signed MoU between NCC\_UoN\_IVPP.pdf**

**Published Works:**

**Nottingham City Council Museums & Galleries Service Strategic Plan 2014-2018**

**Affected Wards:**

**Citywide**

**Colleague / Councillor Interests:**

**Not applicable**

**Any Information Exempt from publication:**

**Yes**

**Dispensation from Financial Regulations:**

**Yes**

**Exempt Information:**

**Description of what is exempt:**

**The attached business plan is exempt as it contains financial details from commercial negotiations.**

An appendix (or appendices) to this decision is exempt from publication under the following paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information because elements of the business plan included within the annexe include financial information with respect to suppliers obtained through commercially sensitive negotiations.

Documents exempt from publication:

Feathered Dinosaurs Business Plan Delegated Decision 23-8-16.xlsx

Consultations:

Date: 19/07/2016

Other City Council Bodies: Director of Leisure & Culture and Head of Parks & Open Spaces

Task Group formed to arrange complementary activity for Wollaton Park. .

Date: 03/08/2015

Other: Arts Council England

Arts Council England [research and development costs supported through the Major Partner Museum programme]

Date: 20/04/2016

Chief Finance Officer: Steve Ross

Business codes established in anticipation. Ongoing advice regarding business plan.

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

Not applicable

Equality:

Please login to the system to view the EIA document: Dinosaur Exhibition EIA.doc

Social Value Considerations:

Not applicable

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

**Subject to Call In:**

Yes

**Call In Expiry date:**

09/09/2016

**Advice Sought:**

Legal, Finance, Procurement, Equality and Diversity

**Legal Advice:**

The proposals in this report raise no significant legal issues and are supported.

The Exhibition is deemed to be a 'European first' opportunity to the City and one that is expected to increase the profile of the City and Wollaton Hall.

It is understood by the report author that IVPP and LHIGP are the sole owners of exhibits of this kind which are considered unique and upon that basis, dispensation from the Contract Procedure Rules in accordance with the Financial Regulations is supported and is compliant with EU Procurement Regulations to award a contract to them without prior publication.

The value of this report is the proposed overall cost of the Exhibition but it is expected that the majority of the expenditure will be recovered by the entry fees charged to visit the Exhibition at the Hall.

The exhibits are being loan to the Council, 2 of which will form part of a satellite exhibition at the Lakeside Arts at the University of Nottingham. Legal Services are assisting the report author in preparing loan agreements between the Council and IVPP and LHIGP detailing the requirements of both parties with respect to the exhibits and separately with the University for the exhibits that will be located at their site.

Advice provided by Dionne Claire Screatton (Solicitor) on 01/09/2016.

**Finance Advice:**

1. The estimated cost of this exhibition is £381,488, with £328,300 being funded from income. The net cost of £53,188 will be met from £20k contribution from the 2016/17 and 2017/18 Museum revenue budget, the remaining balance to be met from sponsorship.

2. The Museums Service has experience of managing this type of exhibition and generating sponsorship for these events. The financial target is considered reasonable.

3. The decision will not impact on the Museum Service's Medium Term Financial Plan. The exhibition should have a positive effect on the local economy and the commercial side of the Museum Service.

4. Some of the costs are subject to the fluctuation of exchange rates between the pound and the dollar and so final costs will vary, but the scale of fluctuation is considered minimal.

Advice provided by Steve Ross (Finance Analyst) on 26/08/2016. Advice provided by Catherine Ziane-Pryor (Governance Officer) on 01/09/2016.

**Procurement Advice:**

**Approval to dispense with Contract Procedure Rule 5.1.2 in accordance with Financial Regulation (3.29) (Operational Issues) to allow for a direct award of a contract for the loan and shipping of the 26 Dinosaur exhibits from the IVPP in Beijing and Inner Mongolia Museum and associated merchandise from IVPP partners the PNSO in Beijing.**

**This recommendation is supported by procurement as we can't source these specific items from any other supplier. Advice provided by Paul Ritchie (Procurement Category Manager) on 26/08/2016.**

**Equality and Diversity Advice:**

**The proposal had no significant impact on equality. It will be important that with such an opportunity to experience rare items that communities not usually exposed to this type of programme can see it at reasonable / no charge.**

**Signatures**

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| <b>David Trimble (Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture)</b>   |
| <b>SIGNED and Dated: 02/09/2016</b>   |
| <b>Andrew Vaughan (Corporate Director Commercial and Operations)</b>  |
| <b>SIGNED and Dated: 02/09/2016</b>   |
| <b>Theresa Channell (Head of Corporate and Strategic Finance) - Dispensation from Financial Regulations</b> |
| <b>SIGNED and Dated: 02/09/2016</b>   |
| <b>Chief Finance Officer's Comments:</b>  |