

Cabinet

MUSEUMS PARTNERSHIP SILVERDALE HOARD 28 MAY 2013

Report of Head of Health and Housing

PURPOSE OF REPORT			
To update Members on the position in relation to any potential purchase of the Silverdale Hoard.			
Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Non-Key Decision	Referral from Cabinet Member
Date of notice of forthcoming key decision			1 st May 2013
This report is public.			

RECOMMENDATIONS OF COUNCILLOR SANDS

- (1) Members approve that Lancaster City Council does not purchase the Silverdale Hoard.
- (2) That members formally request Lancashire County Council to purchase the Silverdale Hoard.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The museums partnership with Lancashire County Council includes the management of the City, Maritime and Cottage museums. The partnership relates to the corporate plan by helping achieve outcomes within 'Economic Growth' priority. This report sets out the options in relation to the possible purchase of the Silverdale Hoard (currently in private ownership). The valuation of the hoard has now been set and a decision is required as to whether the City Council wishes to purchase the hoard alone, requests that Lancashire County Council purchase the hoard alone or whether there should be a joint purchase arrangement. A treasure item can only be purchased by an Accredited Museum and both Lancashire County Council and Lancaster City Council meet this requirement. It was declared treasure by the Lancashire Deputy Coroner at a hearing in Lancaster and is valued at £109,815.

2.0 Background

Details of the Silverdale Hoard

- 2.1 Within the collection, the mixture of origins of the 27 coins is typical of Viking hoards from Britain and Ireland from the end of the 9th and beginning of the 10th centuries. They include Anglo-Saxon, Anglo-Viking, Frankish and Islamic type.
- 2.2 Unusually there was also a plated forgery of a Frankish silver denier – these rarely make it into hoards, presumably because testing methods of silver content were rigorously used before bringing together material to deposit.
- 2.3 Alongside the coins, some of the arm-rings are very finely decorated with elaborate punch-work and one of them has highly unusual terminals in the form of animal heads. The types are mostly Scandinavian in origin but the rings show signs of further development – like the heads – in Irish centres such as Dublin, where Vikings settled. The brooches are of Irish manufacture, adopted by the Vikings as cloak fasteners.

3.0 Proposal details

3.1 Purchase

There are a number of potential funding sources which could cover the purchase cost of £109,815, e.g. Lancashire County Council and Lancaster City Council's Museums Acquisition Funds, William Briggs Trust, Friends Groups and external funding bids. Although these funding sources cannot be guaranteed, officers are optimistic that the required capital can be raised

- 3.2 However, there are a number of other costs associated with the Silverdale Hoard in addition to the purchase cost:

Temporary display costs

For a temporary display of the Hoard it is estimated that an additional one-off cost of £9,000 would be incurred by the purchasing Council individually or jointly under option three. The purpose of a temporary display would be to help raise public awareness of the Hoard and assist with any fund raising opportunities.

Longer term costs

If the Hoard is acquired then conservation, research and publication should be undertaken at an estimated one-off cost of £130,000 which would be in addition to the purchase cost. Additional issues for consideration should the City Museum display the Hoard (Options 1 and 3) include various redisplay requirements for existing display features such as the Dark Ages, The Gallery and History of Lancaster. One-off costs for such re-interpretation and redisplay vary between approx £48,000 and £655,800 dependant on the degree of change to existing displays/changes to layout of building and amount of match funding achieved.

The longer term costs are expected to be the subject of a funding application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. Such a funding application would be undertaken by county council officers irrespective of which option members decide.

4.0 Details of Consultation

4.1 There have been ongoing discussions with county council officers as part of the museums partnership. County officers have expressed a desire to ensure the hoard remains within Lancashire and as such are at this stage prepared to undertake the necessary work to raise funds to purchase alone including the associated temporary and long term display costs. County are aware that the funding requirements to conserve and display are significant but are well placed with the considerable level of expertise amongst officers to make funding bids to various sources.

5.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

	Option 1 Lancaster City Council purchases the hoard alone (subject to referral on to Council)	Option 2 Request that Lancashire County Council purchases the hoard alone.	Option 3 Partnership purchase (subject to referral on to Council)
Advantages	The District Council area in which the hoard was found Demonstrates commitment to cultural heritage and economic growth.	The County Council area in which the hoard was found Demonstrates commitment to cultural heritage. More straight forward process for acquisition, display and funding applications. No financial commitment required by the City Council.	Spreads the financial burden of the purchase across the two Councils.

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	Option 1 Lancaster City Council purchases the hoard alone	Option 2 Request that Lancashire County Council purchases the hoard alone.	Option 3 Partnership purchase
Disadvantages	Considerable investment required in order to display on a permanent basis with reliance on external funding meeting these costs. Longer term commitments would need further investment over and above the initial Museum Acquisition Funding	Potentially less influence over where the collection is exhibited.	Requires formal agreement and clear understanding by both parties about how shared ownership will work in practice. Reliance on external funding to meet one-off purchase, re-display and conservation costs.
Risk	There is a realistic risk with this option that associated one-off purchase funds will not be generated. Risk increases with ongoing costs associated with conservation and temporary / permanent displays.	Minimal risk to City Council.	Risk to City Council remains as per option one.

6.0 Recommendation for purchase option

6.1 The most important issue is that this is an excellent opportunity to retain the Hoard in Lancashire. County council officers initially informally recommended that Lancaster City Council purchase the Silverdale Hoard for their City Museum collections. However, given both short and longer term financial commitments and the uncertainty of the success of funding applications and fundraising efforts, the situation has changed. The council will be facing difficult choices given the financial outlook for 2014/15 and beyond and therefore the best option might be for Lancashire County Council to look to purchase the hoard alone. There is, of course, a risk that the county council will decide not to purchase the hoard when considered against their priorities. This leads us to consideration of the options.

7.0 Preferred option

7.1 The officer preferred option is option 2. The uncertain short and long term costs associated with purchase, conservation and display mean a purchase by the city council alone is unaffordable based on current budgets and forecasts. Option 2 allows for County to proceed with the purchase, should they decide to, thus enabling the hoard to be kept and displayed within Lancashire including display at Museums in Lancaster in the future.

8.0 Conclusion

- 8.1 The purchase of the hoard by County Council would enable it to remain within Lancashire and enable the potential for future display within Lancaster's museums. This report acknowledges the importance of retaining the hoard in Lancashire and seeks to find a solution to achieve this.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

Management of the Museums is an important element of the Council's priorities of Economic Growth – and outcomes cited within the Corporate Plan include 'More tourists coming to the district and tourism income is maximised, the district's cultural, retail and tourism offer is maximised, Lancaster district's recognition as a visitor destination is enhanced and the district's local heritage is protected'. That said, the Council must consider value for money and affordability, taking account of the Medium Term Financial Strategy. Option 2 fits with this, as well as helping with museum objectives to some degree.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, HR, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

None specifically identified arising from this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Legal have been consulted and have no further comments to make

Financial Implications

There are no additional financial implications arising for the City Council under the preferred option 2 as all costs and associated risks would be met entirely by Lancashire County Council (LCC).

Full costs for purchase (£110K), re-display (£655.8K max) and conservation (£130K) for the Silverdale Hoard are set out within the main body of the report. There are currently no capital or revenue budgets identified to cover this except for the City and County annual museum acquisition funds. Similarly, there is no identified budget to cover the one-off revenue temporary display cost of £9K. It is not considered financially viable therefore for the City Council to consider options 1 and 3 at this stage. The following table has been included

for illustrative purposes however, to show potential additional costs arising for the City Council for each of these options should external funding bids fail.

	Option 1		Option 3	
	Y1 2013/14		Y1 2013/14	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
One-off Add't Capital Costs	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Purchase	66	66	33	33
Re-Display	48	655.8	48	655.8
Total Add't Capital Costs	114	721.8	81	688.8
One-off Add't Revenue Costs				
Temporary Display	9	9	0	0
Conservation/Research	130	130	0	0
Total Add't Revenue Costs	139	139	0	0
Recurring Add't Revenue Costs	Y2 onwards		Y2 onwards	
Insurance	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Cost of Borrowing (Y2-Y21)	6.06	38.42	4.31	36.67
Total Recurring Add't Revenue Costs	6.86	39.22	5.11	37.47

Based on informal discussions with County officers the following assumptions have been made in the above:

- that LCC and City museum acquisition budgets will be available for all options;
- that under option 3 unbudgeted capital purchase costs would be split 50/50;
- that under option 3 LCC would cover one-off temporary display and conservation revenue costs as they would do under option 2;
- that City would be responsible for one-off re-display capital costs under either option on the basis that the Hoard would be permanently displayed within the City Museum.

It should be further noted that should options 1 or 3 be preferred then given the one-off capital and associated revenue costs such a course of action would require full Council approval.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Human Resources: None specifically identified arising from this report

Information Services: None specifically identified arising from this report

Property: Included within the body of the report

Open Spaces: None specifically identified arising from this report

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

Taking account of the recommendations, the S151 Officer has no further comments to add.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

none

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