



Cabinet

23 October 2013

Report Title	Reductions to Overall Cultural Service including Art Gallery	
Classification	Open	
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1.0 Description of Savings Proposal

Reduced opening hours and programmes delivered at the Art Gallery, coupled with a phased restructure over the next five years.

What will be cut: Reduction in print and cessation of Wolverhampton in Bloom campaign unless fully funded from alternative sources. Reduction in opening hours to Tuesday to Saturday in 2017/18. Headcount will be determined following consultation with unions and staff.

Service impact: The Gallery is currently a national portfolio organisation of the Arts Council until 31 March 2015, and has targets to increase visitor numbers year on year to meet the terms of the grant. As the Arts Council is a significant source of funding both through grant in aid and programme funding, we do not wish to compromise the potential of retaining external funding from this source. The exhibition programme for the next two years is in place and includes the major sub regional festival Black Country Echoes externally funded until 31 March 2015. Reduced opening hours will not be implemented until 2017/18 in order to allow the service to manage the existing commitments and maintain grant funders. However, early impacts of the cuts will be a reduction in capacity around new sources of external funding. Loss of senior posts will lead to a reduction in the number of regional, national and international partnership projects on which a significant reputation for Wolverhampton has been built.

What service will be retained: The Art Gallery will remain open on a Tuesday to a Saturday.

2.0 Table Setting out Financial Proposal

2.1 Total base budget savings

	Year 2014-2015 £000	Year 2015-2016 £000	Year 2016-2017 £000	Year 2017-2018 £000	Year 2018-2019 £000	5 year total £000's
Total base budget savings	96	0	106	50	0	252

2.2 Staffing Implication

	Year 2014-2015 £000	Year 2015-2016 £000	Year 2016-2017 £000	Year 2017-2018 £000	Year 2018-2019 £000	5 year total £000's
Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	2	0	2	2	0	6

3.0 Communications Strategy Implications

3.1 The Communications strategy Implications of this proposal represent some risk as detailed below. Closure of the gallery for one day a week will need careful communication

4.0 Corporate Landlord Implication

4.1 The Corporate Landlord Implications of this proposal are none or minimal.

5.0 Customer Implications

5.1 The implications for customers of this proposal represent some risk as detailed below. Reduced opening hours to the Gallery will not be introduced until 2017/18 to allow the service to manage existing commitments. Loss of capacity to bid for external funding could seriously impact on the service to customers in two to three years' time, particularly if National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) status and funding from the Council was lost.

6.0 Economic Implications

6.1 Closure of the gallery one day a week will reduce takings in the cafe and the shop and the availability of the visitor information service. The Gallery sources much of the produce in the cafe from local sources and these SMEs may suffer as a consequence. Reduction in the day time offer to visitors to the city especially those visiting on business

7.0 Environmental Implications

7.1 The Environmental Implications of this proposal represent some risk as detailed below: Reduced opening hours means that the building is more vulnerable to vandalism and break –ins. Additional security will need to be factored in by Property Services.

8.0 Equality Implications

8.1 An equalities analysis screening has been completed, a full equality analysis is not required.

9.0 Financial Implications

9.1 The Financial Implications in terms of savings and investments are as described in the proposal above.

10.0 Health Implications

10.1 The Health Implications of this proposal represent some risk as detailed below: Learning and social inclusion programmes that deliver on the Empowering People and Communities theme will increasingly be at risk as staffing capacity is reduced, and the expertise to attract external funding is lost.

11.0 Legal Implications

11.1 The Legal Implications of this proposal represent some risk as detailed below. The Art Gallery currently has National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) status and external funding agreements with the Art Council until 2015, with targets to increase visitor numbers year on year. Therefore reduced opening hours will not be introduced until 2017 in order not to compromise retaining and renewing external funding from this source.

12.0 Policy Implications

12.1 The Policy Implications on agreed Council policy represents a considerable risk as detailed below. Wolverhampton Art Gallery is a high profile cultural venue in the city centre and makes a significant contribution to the Council's Revitalising the City and Encouraging Business and Enterprise priorities. Reduced opening hours means less visitors to the city, which in turn has an impact on the wider city centre economy. In addition important learning and social inclusion programmes that deliver on the Empowering People and Communities theme will be at risk.

13.0 Procurement Implications

13.1 The procurement Implications of this proposal represent some risk as detailed below : The Art Gallery seeks to procure locally. Reductions in activities could have a knock on effect on local procurement opportunities, in turn affecting small local enterprises

14.0 Staffing Implications

14.1 The HR Implications of this proposal represent some risk as detailed below. Over the five years the staffing will be reduced by seven people, including cuts to the senior management. There is a significant risk that expertise and knowledge will be lost. In addition Wolverhampton's national and regional relationships and reputation could be seriously affected if succession is not managed effectively. Reductions in employee numbers will be achieved through voluntary redundancies in first instance in line with Council scheme. Further reductions in service and employee numbers will require fair and due process to be followed regarding consultation, selection and implementation of any compulsory redundancies.

15.0 Trade Union Implications

15.1 No Implications Recorded.