

# Council Petitions Scheme

**Council**

**Date: 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

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Author: The Leader of the Council  
The Leader of the Opposition Group  
The Leader of the Minority Group  
Chief Executive/ Head of Conveyancing, Environment & Contracts (Deputy Monitoring Officer)

Wards: All

Parishes Affected: All

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## **1. Purpose and Reasons**

- 1.1 To report the receipt of a petition regarding the proposal from the Swindon Museum and Art Gallery Action Group to bid build a new facility and requesting that “the new-build plans be abandoned and that more concerted efforts are made to create a new Swindon Art Gallery and Museum in a more historically-appropriate site”. The petition contains 2068 signatures submitted on line and a further 423 in paper form and satisfies the requirement of the Council’s Petition Scheme for the matter to be presented to Full Council as a petition for debate.
- 1.2 At the Annual Council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2010, the Council formally adopted a Petition Scheme in accordance with the requirements of Sections 10 to 22 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act) and subsequent statutory guidance.
- 1.3 Operating the Petition Scheme helps deliver the strategic corporate priority of working with people and families to help them fulfil their potential by developing public participation in decision-making.

## **2. Recommendations**

Council is recommended to:

- 2.1 Hear from the Lead Petitioner (or representative) stating why Council should support the petition’s request;
- 2.2 Thank the Lead Petitioner and acknowledge the views expressed
- 2.3 Reaffirm Council’s support for the submission made by the Swindon Museum and Art Gallery Trust to the Heritage Lottery Fund in November 2017.

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## **3. Detail**

### Petition

- 3.1 An online petition, augmented by paper copies, has secured 2491 signatures, opposing the proposal by the Swindon Museum and Art Gallery Trust's bid for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a new, bespoke facility to be built in the town centre. As an alternative, the petitioners have suggested using either the Carriage Works or the Mechanics' Institute.
- 3.2 Members are invited to note:
- 3.2.1 The work undertaken by the petitioners to bring this issue to Council.
- 3.2.2 That the Swindon Museum and Art Gallery Trust, which is independent from the Council, has already made its submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund with widespread support from the public and local stakeholders.
- 3.2.3 Cabinet Minute 49, 2017/18, endorsing the bid and including a statement of support from the Opposition Group spokesperson (refers).
- 3.2.4 That, since the petition was collected over a long time, some of the signatories may have now changed their mind as the Swindon Museum and Art Gallery Trust's proposals took shape and might now backed the bid.
- 3.3 Members are invited to reconfirm their support for the Swindon Museum and Art Gallery's submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund, including the new facility.

## **4. Alternative Options**

- 4.1 No alternative options are proposed.

## **5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management**

### Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are none specific to this report. However, should the Council determine that action be taken in respect of this petition this will require a report to the Cabinet, Cabinet Member or relevant Committee and any Financial and Procurement Implications will need to be addressed in that report.

### Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 Legal and human rights implications have been taken into account in the body of the report. Sections 10 to 22 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 and the Department for Communities and Local

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Government Statutory Guidance on Handling Petitions have been taken into account in the development of the Council's Petition Scheme.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

5.3 None

Diversity Impact Assessment

5.4 No diversity impact assessment was undertaken as the report's recommendations would not directly affect any Council service at this time.

Risk Management

5.5 None.

## **6. Consultees**

6.1 The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Head of Conveyancing, Environment & Contracts (Deputy Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

## **7. Background Papers**

7.1 None

## **8. Appendices**

8.1 Appendix 1 – Wording of Petition