



Glasgow City Council

**Wellbeing, Equalities, Communities, Culture
and Engagement City Policy Committee**

Report by Chief Executive, Glasgow Life

Contact: Duncan Dornan Ext: 75900

Item 5

30th May 2024

DISPOSALS FROM MUSEUMS AND LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

Purpose of Report:

To consider the recommendations from the Repatriation and Spoliation of Artefacts Working Group regarding disposal of material in line with ethical and professional guidelines

Recommendations:

Having considered the professional context for the management and review of collections, GCC is asked to approve:

The recommendations of the Repatriation and Spoliation of Artefacts Working Group for the disposal of the items cited under:

- 1.3.1 Museums and Collections

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ☐ consulted: Yes ☐ No ☐

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

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1.1 Background

A committee paper was submitted to the City Administrative Committee (CAC) of 15th June 2023 to notify GCC of the requirement for collections rationalisation and disposal from the civic collection, the criteria applied, and the role of professional officers within Archives, Museums and Libraries in carrying out these functions. The CAC agreed that the Terms of Reference for the Repatriation and Spoliation of Artefacts Working Group (Working Group) be extended to include review of disposal recommendations from Museums and Library Special Collections. It was further agreed that approval of Disposals on the Council's behalf is delegated to the Wellbeing, Equalities, Communities, Culture and Engagement City Policy Committee (WECCE), other than Repatriation and Spoliation which will reside with the CAC.

1.2 Reporting process to ensure Audit and ethical compliance.

Glasgow City Council is the Governing Body for the civic collection and the civic collections are subject of the Council's Internal Audit procedures and sectoral ethical compliances.

Disposal is an auditable process requiring that all disposal transactions be fully documented and transparent and have approval of the Governing Body. This process ensures compliance with codes of ethics whereby decisions regarding disposals are within the public domain.

Review and discussion by the Working Group of proposed disposals will ensure compliance with the criteria laid out in the paper to CAC before final recommendation for approval is made to the WECCE Committee.

1.3 Items for disposal.

As such, having reviewed the following items for disposal on the 25 October 2023, and further items on the 30 April 2024, against the criteria approved by the CAC on 15 June 2023, the Working Group recommends the following, under Items 1.3.1 – 4, for disposal.

1.3.1 Museums and Collections

All museum disposals are assigned a unique file reference and are recorded on the museums central asset management system logging each stage of the disposal process and authorisations. These file references are cited below.

1.3.1.1 Transport and Technology collections

11 disposal recommendations covering 11 items/components:

- 4 aircraft carburetors
- 2 aircraft compasses
- 1 propellor
- 2 railway station signs
- 1 locomotive nameplate
- 1 Mirrlees-Watson engine

Associated file references:

Disp.	2023.	081-087, 091-093
	2024.	005

1.3.1.2 Social History/Education collections

3 disposal recommendations covering 3 items/components:
3 pieces of painted wooden panel from building interior

Associated file references:
Disp. 2023. 098-100

1.3.1.3 Natural History

1 disposal recommendation covering 182 specimens:
182 natural history specimens: birds, fish and mammals.

Associated file references:
Disp. 2024. 006

1.3.1.4 Temp Numbers: items found in collection without an ID number.

11 Disposal recommendations covering 109 items/components:
1 diagraph (letter stencil cutter)
1 railway platform seat
80 glazed subway bricks
1 set subway wheels
1 electrical unit and 1 control panel
1 train station sign
1 luggage trolley
8 concrete blocks
14 surplus replica tiles used in display set dressing
1 workman's travelling hut

Associated file references:
Disp. 2023 079,088-090, 094-097,102,104
Disp. 2024. 004

1.3.1.4 Props /Not Collection: items brought in for temporary use.

8 disposal recommendations covering 61 items/ components:
1 sword
18 sections of wood paneling
2 leather satchels
35 spare aircraft components
1 framed print facsimile
2 wooden plan chests
1 mock-up Trans-Pennine Class 397 Cab unit
1 educational model of a Blackhouse

Associated file references:
Disp. 2023. 080,101,103, 105-106
Disp. 2024. 001-003

2 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:	
<i>Financial:</i>	Glasgow Life revenue budget for third party transportation should this be required.
<i>Legal:</i>	None.
<i>Personnel:</i> <i>Procurement:</i>	Glasgow Life Museums. Glasgow Life may require to tender for transport services, through its own procurement team.
Council Strategic Plan:	Specify which Grand Challenge (s) and Mission (s) the proposal supports. Where appropriate the relevant Commitment can also be listed.
Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:	
<i>Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.</i>	Grand Challenge 1, Mission 4: Support Glasgow to be a city that is active and culturally vibrant Rationalisation of collections will enable further acquisitions to the civic collections that will be more representative of the community in Glasgow as it is currently.
<i>What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?</i>	
<i>Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.</i>	
Climate Impacts:	
<i>Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:</i>	Grand Challenge 3 Mission 2: Become a net zero carbon city by 2030
<i>What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?</i>	This process will gradually reduce the collections storage footprint and enable more efficient storage options.
<i>Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?</i>	See above

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts: Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report Y/N	None
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If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out

3 Recommendations

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The recommendations of the Repatriation and Spoliation of Artefacts Working Group for the disposal of the items cited under:

- 1.3.1 Museums and Collections