



**Glasgow City Council**

**Wellbeing, Empowerment, Community and Citizen  
Engagement City Policy Committee**

**Report by Chief Executive of Glasgow Life**

**Contact: Jane Rowlands Ext: 73614**

**Item 5**

**5th March 2026**

## **DISPERSAL FROM MUSEUMS AND LIBRARY COLLECTIONS**

### **Purpose of Report:**

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

### **Recommendations:**

The Committee is asked to:

- note the recommendations of the Repatriation and Spoliation of Artefacts Working Group regarding the dispersal of the items cited under:
  - 1.2 Proposed Sale of items
  - 1.3 Further Items for Dispersal
- Refer the items for dispersal in 1.2 and 1.3 to the City Administration Committee for approval.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

## **1.1 . Background**

Glasgow City Council is the Governing Body for the civic collection which are subject of the Council's Internal Audit procedures and sectoral ethical compliances, including the Museums Association.

Dispersal is an auditable process requiring that all dispersal transactions be fully documented and transparent and have approval of the Governing Body. This process ensures compliance with codes of ethics whereby decisions regarding dispersals from the civic collections are within the public domain.

Following review and discussion of proposed dispersal of items from the collection by the Repatriation and Spoliation Working Group, recommendation for approval is made to the Wellbeing, Equalities, Communities, Culture and Engagement City Policy Committee (WECCE), before submission to the City Administration Committee for final approval.

## **1.2 Proposed Sale of Items**

Glasgow Life Museums have sought to rehome all of the items listed below following approval for dispersal by Glasgow City Council's WECCE Committee. Having now exhausted all reasonable dispersal options, Glasgow Life Museums propose the sale of these items. On 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025 Glasgow Life Museums received approval from the Museums Association Code of Ethics Committee under the condition that any income generated from the sale of items is invested in the long-term benefit of the museum and its collections. Appendix One contains further information on these items.

As such, having further reviewed the items for dispersal on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026, the Repatriation and Spoliation Working Group recommends the sale of these items.

### **1.2.1 Transport and Technology Collections**

5 dispersal recommendations covering 7 items:

- 1 mobility scooter
- 1 farm wagon (flat wagon, axle, box cart)
- 1 wooden cart
- 1 pair of cart shafts
- 1 beam engine

Associated file references:

Disp.	2016.	10
	2023.	007, 011, 012, 029

### **1.2.2 Furniture Collections**

8 dispersal recommendations covering 33 items:

- 1 set bedroom furniture made by Crossley and Brown (10 items)
- 1 bedroom furniture set late 19<sup>th</sup> century (13 items)
- 3 pairs of brass bed frames, late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century
- 1 mahogany corner cabinet
- 1 wash stand and towel rail, late 19<sup>th</sup> century (2 items)
- 1 wardrobe and dressing table set (2 items)
- 1 wooden display cabinet (incomplete)
- 1 wooden single bed ends

Associated file references:

Disp. 2023. 062 – 070

### **1.2.3 Temp Numbers: items found in collection without an ID number.**

5 dispersal recommendations covering 12 items:

- 1 green bucket chair
- 1 cabinet door sections (8 items)
- 1 wooden cupboard
- 1 wooden cabinet (incomplete)
- 1 wooden cupboard, painted white

Associated file references:

Disp. 2023. 072, 073, 075 - 077

### **1.2.4 Props / Not Collection: items brought in for temporary use / set dressing**

Items include:

- glass and ceramics
- textiles (clothing, lace)
- toys and games

### **1.3 Further Items for Dispersal**

Glasgow Life Museums seeks approval for the dispersal of items listed below and with further detail in Appendix 2. These items will be dispersed in accordance with the Museums Association Disposal Toolkit, including offering to other museum and heritage organisations and to local community groups. In the event all reasonable dispersal options are exhausted, these items are proposed for sale, where feasible. The income generated will be invested in the care of the museum and its collection.

The Repatriation and Spoliation Working Group recommended the dispersal, including potential sale of these items on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

### **1.3.1 Transport and Technology Collections**

2 dispersal recommendations covering 2 items:

- 1 colliery steam engine
- 1 motorcycle and sidecar

Associated file references:

Disp. 2025. 005, 014

### **1.3.2 Temp Numbers: items found in collection without an ID number.**

19 dispersal recommendations covering 32 items:

- 2 wartime teaching aids
- 1 set wartime teaching aid pictures
- 1 set PAN-AM envelopes
- 2 theatre programmes
- 1 set bicycle accessories
- 1 Lucus contact set
- 1 set reproduction prints
- 3 buttercup dairy posters
- 2 women's skirts
- 1 pink fabric bag
- 6 boxes of glass negatives (unidentified persons)
- 1 folder 'photo symboliques'
- 1 set nightlife ephemera
- 1 buttercup dairy jar
- 2 small Euro flags
- 1 dulcimer
- 1 3D garden festival map
- 3 folders of education posters
- 1 window frame

Associated file references:

Disp. 2025 001, 002, 006 – 011, 016 - 026

## 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>	None
<i>Procurement:</i>	None

### Council Strategic Plan:

Specify which Grand Challenge (s) and Mission (s) the proposal supports. Where appropriate the relevant Commitment can also be listed.  
Grand Challenge 1, Mission 4: Support Glasgow to be a city that is active and culturally vibrant

### Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

<i>Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2025-29? Please specify.</i>	Empowering Communities & Supporting Cohesion  Rationalisation of collections will enable further acquisitions to the civic collections that will be more representative of Glasgow's diverse communities.
<i>What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?</i>	(no significant impact, positive impact or negative impact) positive
<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 Fight the Climate Emergency in a Just Transition to a Net Zero Glasgow
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*What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?* This process will gradually reduce the collections storage footprint and enable more efficient storage options.

*Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?* As above.

**Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:**

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report  
Y/N No

If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out

**3. Recommendations**

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