

**Report of Head of Museums and Galleries**

**Report to Chief Officer Culture and Sport**

**Date: 29<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

**Subject: Complete the Repair to the Grand Pianos at Lotherton Hall**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Summary of main issues**

1. A series of repairs have been carried out on the Errard grand pianos which are part of the collection at Lotherton Hall.
2. The final stage of these repairs needs to be completed.
3. Due to the on-going and intricate nature of these repairs these need to be carried out by the specialist who has researched the pianos and completed the previous work.

**Recommendations**

4. The Chief Officer Culture and Sport is recommended to approve the waiver of the following contract procedure rule: Contract procedure rule no 8.1 and 8.2 – Intermediate Value Procurements (Quotations)

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 To provide information on the proposed repairs to the Errard grand pianos at Lotherton Hall.
- 1.2 To seek approval to waive CPR 8.1 and 8.2 in order to invite a single tender to deliver these works and gain approval for proceeding as outlined below.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 The two Errard grand pianos in Marsh & Jones cabinets are part of the designated museum collection at Lotherton Hall, part of Leeds Museums & Galleries.
- 2.2 These pianos have been maintained in working order and are used regularly for recitals, weddings and events.
- 2.3 The pianos have both suffered damage due to the environmental conditions at Lotherton Hall.

## **3 Main issues**

- 3.1 The pianos have been investigated by various experts to find a way of saving them and keeping them in playing order.
- 3.2 Of the various solutions offered the one which proved to be least intrusive, most cost effective and practical was the one offered by piano restorer Johannes Secker. This consisted of a repair process which avoided the major expense of replacing the base boards which the other consultants had suggested. The cost to complete these repairs is £1,400 which is available from a donation from Leeds Art Fund already provided.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.1.1 Not applicable - internal consultation with curatorial colleagues.

### **4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

- 4.2.1 Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening has been completed.

### **4.3 Council policies and City Priorities**

- 4.3.1 The pianos have been entrusted to the care of Leeds City Council and should be preserved for future generations.
- 4.3.2 This would be money wisely spent.

#### **4.4 Resources and value for money**

- 4.4.1 Funding for the repairs is available from within the Lotherton Hall Music account from money donated by Leeds Art Fund.

#### **4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

- 4.5.1 The Chief Procurement Officer advice is that it would be lawful for the Council to waive Contracts Procedure Rule 8 in these circumstances, providing that the relevant Chief Officer is satisfied that there are compelling reasons to do so.

#### **4.6 Risk Management**

- 4.6.1 The major risk is of not taking a timely decision which will impact on the condition of the pianos and their availability to deliver the events programme and hire for weddings.

### **5 Conclusions**

- 5.1 This is an urgent repair to save the grand pianos, the timescale requires a prompt decision and the outcomes will be important to sustain the music programme and room hire for weddings.
- 5.2 Johannes Secker should complete these repairs for a cost of £1,400 which is funded from the donation from Leeds Art Fund held in the Lotherton Hall Music Account.

### **6 Recommendations**

- 6.1 The Chief Officer Culture and Sport is recommended to approve the waiver of the following contract procedure rule: Contract procedure rule no 8.1 and 8.2 – Intermediate Value Procurements (Quotations).

### **7 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

- 7.1 Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening report.

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.