

Procurement in relation to acquisition of the Townley Commode

Date: 24/9/2021

Report of: Yvonne Hardman, Head of Collections & Programmes

Report to: Eve Roodhouse, Chief Officer, Culture & Economy

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- The Townley commode (similar to a sideboard) is a unique and significant piece of furniture dating from c. 1770 made in tulipwood, sycamore, amaranth and satinwood with a lava and specimen marble top.
- It has been agreed for acquisition for the collection at Temple Newsam by the Leeds Museums & Galleries' Collections Development committee in line with the service's collections management policies and procedures.
- Leeds Museums & Galleries contribute significantly to the Best Council Plan, not least through the service's delivery of culture. New acquisitions to the collections provide opportunities for new displays, interpretation and engagement. This acquisition will add to the Designated decorative art collections, ensuring they continue to be of national and international significance.
- The cost of the acquisition will be fully funded by a grant from the Leeds Art Fund, therefore making best use of resources in line with the Best Council Plan.
- The acquisition cost is £196,500. In accordance with the LCC Contracts Procedure Rule 9.5 where there is genuinely no competition, the lack of competition must be formally evidenced and approved by the relevant Chief Officer.

Recommendations

- a) The Chief Officer, Culture & Economy, approves the procurement of the acquisition in line with CPR 9.5.
- b) The grant is claimed from the Leeds Art Fund by the Head of Collections & Programmes.
- c) The purchase order is raised accordingly by the Head of Collections & Programmes.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 Leeds Museums & Galleries continue to make acquisitions to the collections in line with the Collections Development policy and the acquisition of the Townley Commode adds a unique piece of 18th Century furniture to the decorative art collection. It is a unique piece and therefore meets the criteria set out in 9.5 of the Contracts Procedure Rules. Given that the acquisition is fully grant funded, it is therefore recommended that the Chief Officer, Culture & Economy, approves the procurement of the acquisition.
- 2 The function of this report is to formally evidence the lack of competition in this procurement and therefore in line with CPR 9.5 for the Chief Officer to approve.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards Affected: All

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 3 The approved procedure for acquiring objects for the collection has been followed, including a presentation of the acquisition by the relevant curator to the Leeds Museums & Galleries' Collections Development committee.

What are the resource implications?

- 4 The cost of the acquisition is externally funded by the Leeds Art Fund.

What are the legal implications?

- 5 Due diligence processes have been completed as part of the acquisition procedure.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 6 The risk of failing to comply with procurement processes is being managed through this report. Publicity about the acquisition once procurement is fulfilled will clearly state that it was achieved through grant funding from the Leeds Art Fund.

Does this proposal support the council's 3 Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth Health and Wellbeing Climate Emergency

- 7 The acquisition adds to Leeds Museums & Galleries collections and abilities to share stories with audiences about those collections. This is part of the service's contribution to the Inclusive Growth through continuing to develop the collections and sites within the service to the benefit of the public.
- 8 The procurement of this object does not impact negatively on equality outcomes.

Options, timescales and measuring success

- a) What other options were considered?

9 The only way to procure this object is as set out above.

b) How will success be measured?

10 The object will be displayed at Temple Newsam house and be used to engage audiences.

c) What is the timetable for implementation?

11 The acquisition procurement process will be completed by November 2021.

Appendices

12 None

Background papers

13 None