

Title of Report: Museum Service Programme Update

Officer Presenting: Head of Culture

Author: Curator

1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

1.1 To update Members on the work to date of the Museum Service during 2018-19 and plans for 2019-20 including:

- Exhibitions, Events & Engagement Plan 2019-20
- Learning & Engagement Programme 2018-2019
- 'TIDES' ERDF Interreg Atlantic Area Project

2 Background

2.1 During 2018-19 the Museum Service has delivered a varied and detailed programme of exhibitions, events and raised the participation and engagement of visitors who have visited DCSDC museum and heritage facilities such as the Tower Museum, Guildhall and Alley Theatre, Strabane. This report provides an update on the work carried out during 2018-19 and current work and plans for 2019-20.

3 Key Issues

3.1 In 2018 DCSDC Museum Service issued a new Learning Policy with the aim of widening the scope of our audiences and to attract new audiences to our Learning Services across the Council District. Appendix 1 summarises the programme of learning, engagement and outreach work in our city and across our district. It is intended to continue this programme of work in 2019-20.

3.2 The Museum Service has also planned its key exhibitions and events for 2019-20 Appendix 2. This document highlights the categories and activities the Museum & Visitor Service Team are planning to implement for 2019/20 and also ideas for 2020/21. Each category has a number of activities planned by month and the lead officer has the detailed plans for all activities.

3.3 This plan was developed by the museum team in consultation with the wider Culture Directorate. Feedback has also been sought from external museum, heritage and tourism organisations such as the Siege Museum, the Museum of Free Derry and Visit Derry.

- 3.4 Our key exhibition for 2019 will focus on the 400th anniversary of the Walls. This exhibition will focus on highlighting our rich archaeology collection which we currently have in storage. The Curator has been in discussion with museum and heritage partner organisations to discuss loan of artefacts for display.
- 3.5 Further to a submission of a funding application to the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) - Interreg Atlantic Area Programme which was presented to this committee in January 2017 it has been confirmed that the project Tides has been successful and it is expected this project will formally begin in May 2019.
- 3.6 The Tides project focuses on the sustainable development of onshore and underwater sites of historical interest on the Atlantic coastline to help develop new tourism product. This project has been developed by Ernact. The proposed project partners include DCSDC, Donegal County Council, Devon County Council, University of Cadiz, Madeira Tourism Board and Caen la Mer in France.
- 3.7 A key aspect is to create new networked digital tourism products based on rediscovering and promoting historical connections between regions on the Atlantic. Connections can relate to different historical eras and themes such as the World Wars, Emigration & Trade, Napoleonic, Spanish Armada etc. Sites can relate to shipwrecks, ports, trade, battles, museums etc.
- 3.8 Each partner will develop up to two digital pilot tourism products. DCSDC Museum & Visitor Services have developed the following two pilot proposals, each of which would be of benefit to the Maritime Museum Project, and are related to themes of emigration, trade, world wars and shipwrecks:
- To develop our online genealogical offer to the diaspora and tourists, exploiting the wealth of resources available but not currently unified, to create a targeted genealogical online resource which can be marketed towards an international audience of those exploring family links in the northwest.
 - The creation of a 3D interactive digital map of shipwrecks along the coast – covering Lough Foyle and the surrounding coastline. The interactive map would involve 3D mapping of all shipwrecks in the area and the natural heritage features, and would utilise our heritage collections and archives.

4 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR, Improvement, Rural Needs and other Implications

- 4.1 The Museum Exhibitions, Events & Engagement Programme will be funded through the annual museum programme budget. Additional funding to supplement this plan will be sourced through an active programme of applications to grant and funding bodies. There will be a particular focus on assessing rural needs as the Museum Service plans its programme for 2019-20.
- 4.2 The table below summarises the financial breakdown for the Tides Project: ERDF Interreg Atlantic Area Programme. Funding will cover a part-time role to oversee the delivery of the project over the three-year period. This project will greatly enhance the existing work of the Museums Service in particular in relation to the Maritime Museum.

Financial Breakdown	Euros €
Staffing	137,793
Office & Administration	20,668.95
Travel & Accommodation	15,200
External Expertise & Services	141,500
Total	335,161.95
ERDF Funding (75%)	251,371.46
DCSDC Match Funding (25%)	83,790.49

5 Recommendations

5.1 To note the work to date of the Museum Service during 2018-19 and plans for 2019-20 in relation to the following:

- Exhibitions, Events & Engagement Plan 2019-20
- Learning & Engagement Programme 2018-2019
- 'TIDES' ERDF Interreg Atlantic Area Project

Background Papers

Appendix 1: Learning and Engagement Programme 2018-19

Appendix 2: Exhibitions, Events and Engagement Plan 2019/20