

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director (Policy and Governance) (Introduced by the Executive Member (Resources))	Executive Cabinet	15 November 2018

## DEACCESSION OF STONE CLOCK FACE

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To make a decision in relation to the deaccession of a museum artefact from Astley Hall Museum and Art Gallery's permanent collection.

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

- To deaccession a stone clock face (accession number 1983:4 – see appendix 1 for image) in order to return it to St Laurence's Church, Chorley.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- The clock face originates from St Laurence's Church, Chorley and was taken down from the church tower there in the eighteenth century. It was donated to Astley Hall Museum and Art Gallery in 1983. Since that time it has been stored in the outer courtyard of the hall which is currently inaccessible to the public. The church warden and archivist have approached Chorley Council with a request to return the item to St Laurence's Church. It is hoped that it can then be displayed in the grounds there.

<b>Confidential report</b> Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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<b>Key Decision?</b> Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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<b>Reason</b> Please bold as appropriate	1, a change in service provision that impacts upon the service revenue budget by £100,000 or more	2, a contract worth £100,000 or more
	3, a new or unprogrammed capital scheme of £100,000 or more	4, Significant impact in environmental, social or physical terms in two or more wards

## REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

### (If the recommendations are accepted)

4. According to the Museum Code of Ethics we must recognise that individuals or communities may have a stronger claim to certain items than the museum. Though the item was accessioned into Astley Hall's collection in 1983 it is evident that in this instance, St Laurence's Church has a stronger claim to the object.

## ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

5. The object is not deaccessioned and remains in Astley Hall's permanent collection.

## CORPORATE PRIORITIES

6. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all	✓	A strong local economy	
Clean, safe and healthy homes and communities		An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	✓

## REQUEST TO DEACCESSION STONE CLOCK FACE

7. When the stone clock face was removed from the tower at St Laurence's Church in the nineteenth century it was kept in the church grounds and subsequently moved to the church warden's garden where it became the centrepiece of a rockery. When the church warden died, the clock face was sold with the property. On discovery, the new owners decided to donate it to Astley Hall Museum and Art Gallery. The object was accessioned into the museum's collection in 1983.
8. The clock face was donated to Astley Hall because the owner was concerned that damage would occur to the historic artefact in her garden. At the moment, the item is stored in the outer courtyard at Astley Hall and can be viewed by members of the public by appointment only. If the deaccession were to be accepted, the clock face would be more accessible in the grounds of St Laurence's Church.
9. The clock face would be a positive attribution to the collection at St Laurence's Church as it is an important piece of tangible evidence which provides clear historical value if displayed in the location that it was originally intended for. It would assist in telling the story of the building's history and would be a welcomed addition to such a historically important building in Chorley.
10. Having issued a press release the donor of the clock face contacted Astley Hall. She explained that she would be happy for the object to return to the church. See background papers appendices 2 and 3 for press release and email of support from the donor.
11. In order to facilitate this request St Laurence's Church were required to submit a faculty application to the Church of England, this application is a legal process put in place to protect church buildings from unnecessary alteration, repair or additions including moveable goods such as the clock face. The faculty is in place to legally recognise the return of the clock face. It will ensure that any future movement requires a legal process. The application has been successful which means that the clock face can be officially accepted by St Laurence's Church should the deaccession be approved. The reference number for the faculty is 2017-015564 see background papers appendices 4 and 5. The title of the object will then rest with the then incumbent and successors.

## IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

12. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance	✓	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal	✓	Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

## RISK

A risk register has been completed	Yes	No
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## COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

13. Any costs relating to the deaccession can be met by the Council's revenue budget.

## COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

14. No comments.

REBECCA HUDDLESTON  
DIRECTOR (POLICY AND GOVERNANCE)

There are four background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Amy Dearnaley	5926	18th October 2018	Deaccession of stone clock face