



# Buckinghamshire County Council

## Report

## Cabinet Member for Community Services

Decision to be taken on or after 2 August 2001

Cab Member Report No. CS 2/01

Date 27 July 2001

Title Transfer of Ownership of Museum Collections to Milton Keynes Council

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### Electoral Divisions Affected

### Summary

All Milton Keynes owned material held by the County Museum has been identified enabling the transfer of such material to take place when Milton Keynes Council has achieved Museum Registration

### Recommendation

**That the transfer of ownership of museum and archaeological collections relating to Milton Keynes from Buckinghamshire County Council to Milton Keynes Council be approved, subject to Milton Keynes Council achieving Museum Registration.**

#### A. The decision required, and why it is needed

When Milton Keynes became a unitary authority in April 1997 a three year Joint Arrangement was established for the continued provision of museum services in Milton Keynes by Buckinghamshire County Council. During this period a full audit of the County Museum's collections was undertaken which enabled the identification of all Milton Keynes related material for ultimate transfer of ownership to Milton Keynes Council.

Milton Keynes Council has not established a full museum service of its own and is maintaining the Joint Arrangements, with some amendments and enhancements, for a further three years from April 2000.

The collections audit is complete and a total of 4,510 individual items and groups have been identified as material for legal transfer of ownership. This excludes all Museum material acquired prior to 1957, which is owned by the Bucks Archaeological Society not the County

Council, and therefore not subject to asset transfer under local government reorganisation arrangements.

## **B. Recommended action, and the reasons for this**

Following the audit of the County Museum's collections, which has identified all appropriate Milton Keynes related material it is necessary to set in the place the process for the transfer of such material. The County Museum's disposal policy, which follows the Museums Association's Code of Practice for Museum Authorities, is that material considered for transfer to another museum authority should only be to a **Registered** museum. Milton Keynes Council intends to apply for Registration of its collections, and it is recommended that the legal transfer of title is not carried out until the application has been approved by *Resource: The Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries*. The County Museum is currently submitting its own application for Phase 2 of Registration and is in discussion with both the Area Museum Council and *Resource* about linking this and the proposed transfer of ownership to a separate application from Milton Keynes.

## **C. Other options available, and their pros and con**

There is no other option as this work programme has taken place under the contractual joint arrangements with Milton Keynes Council.

## **D. Resource implications**

There are no resource implications for the County Council arising from this decision. Any future work on Milton Keynes material will be undertaken under Joint Arrangements with Milton Keynes Council.

## **E. Other implications**

Milton Keynes Council has been involved in all stages of the discussions concerning transfer of ownership.

## **F. Feedback from consultation and Local Member views**

Milton Keynes Council is in agreement with the proposed course of action.

## **G. Communication issues**

Regular meetings take place with Milton Keynes Council to monitor the progress of Joint Arrangements and this decision will be communicated through these meetings and in writing to the Arts & Museums Manager, Milton Keynes Council.

*Resource* will be informed through the Museum Registration process.

## **H. Other issues**

### **Background Papers**

None.

***Your questions and views***

*If you have any questions about the matters contained in this paper please get in touch with the Contact Officer whose telephone number is given at the head of the paper.*

*If you have any views on this paper which you would like the Cabinet to consider, or if you wish to object to the proposed decision, please inform the Head of Cabinet Support by **5.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 1 August 2001**. This can be done by telephone (to 01296 382966), Fax (to 01296 383441), or e-mail to [cabinet@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:cabinet@buckscc.gov.uk)*