

OFFICER DECISION NOTICE



Reading
Borough Council
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This notice is to be used for the following types of officer decisions. (Select one option).

A. Decisions taken by officers under a specific express delegation from Council or a Committee.

B. Decisions taken by officers under a general delegation from Council or a Committee, which relates to (i) a permission or a licence, or (ii) the rights of an individual, or (iii) a contract or expenditure **over £100,000**.

1. Title of decision:	Extend the partnership agreement with the University of Reading for the Museums Partnership Reading, an Arts Council England (ACE) funded National Portfolio Organisation (NPO)
2. Date of the decision:	15 April 2026
3. The decision maker:	Executive Director for Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services

4. Decision details:

To confirm that the initial 2023-2026 National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) award by Arts Council England (ACE) has been extended on a rollover basis to at least March 2028 and to extend the partnership agreement.

5. Reasons for the decision:

Museums Partnership Reading is a strategic partnership between Reading Museum and the University of Reading's Museum of English Rural Life (The MERL) which was part of the Arts Council England National Portfolio 2018-2023.

A successful application was submitted by the MPR on 18th May 2022 to Arts Council England's 2023-26 Investment Programme seeking a further three years investment from 1 April 2023 until 31 March 2026 from the National Portfolio Organisations programme.

A National Portfolio Organisation was defined by Arts Council England as an organisation that received direct investment from the organisation in order to help support and realise delivery of Arts Council England outcomes based on the ACE Strategy 'Let's Create'.

This initial 2023-2026 award has now been extended on a rollover basis to allow organisations to maintain NPO status until 2028, pending a new round of National Portfolio applications. This has only recently been formally confirmed by Arts Council England.

A report will also be tabled confirming the arrangement has been accepted.

Where a new round of formal NPO applications is started (likely 2027 for the period April 2028-2031) a formal report will be tabled prior to any acceptance of NPO status if successfully awarded, as was the case in 2022.

6. Alternative options considered (if any) and rejected:

None

7. List of open Background Papers:

None

8. List of confidential or exempt Background Papers:

None

9. Equality Considerations:

None

10. Any other matters taken into consideration:

<input type="checkbox"/> Legitimate expectation of consultation	<input type="checkbox"/> Procedural requirements
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Health implications	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental or Climate Change
<input type="checkbox"/> Health and Safety	<input type="checkbox"/> Risk Management implications
<input type="checkbox"/> Transparency of Information (FOI etc)	<input type="checkbox"/> Privacy Impact Assessments
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights Act Duties	<input type="checkbox"/> Armed Forces Covenant
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Parenting	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Safety
<input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory duties	<input type="checkbox"/> EU withdrawal
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

Details of the matters taken into account:

11. Legal considerations:

As detailed at Section 17 below, the Housing, Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee on 29 June 2022 delegated authority to the Executive Director for Environment, Neighbourhoods and Economic Growth in consultation, to extend the partnership agreement.

Any extension to the partnership agreement will be reported to the next Housing, Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee for noting.

12. Financial considerations

There are no direct Financial implications of this proposal

13. Internal consultations

Consultation has been carried out with Lead Councillor for Leisure & Culture, the Director of Legal and Democratic Services and the Director of Finance as required by the committee delegation.

Sections 13-18: To be completed only for Decision A (express delegation from a Committee)

14. The name of the Committee:	Housing Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee
15. Date of the meeting:	29 June 2022
16. Minute number:	5(3)
17. The delegation given by the Committee:	That the Executive Director for Environment, Neighbourhoods and Economic Growth, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Leisure & Culture, the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services and the Director of Finance be authorised to extend the partnership agreement with the University of Reading for the Museums Partnership Reading.
18. The name of any member of the committee who declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision:	None
19. Any councillor or officer required to be consulted prior to the exercise of this delegation and details of their response.	Lead Councillor for Leisure & Culture, Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services Director of Finance