

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TOP LINES - TUESDAY, 19 JANUARY 2021

SHG Archives Lending Policy

- **Executive Council deferred the decision to approve the SHG Archives Lending Policy for implementation subject to further consultation and work being done**

Background:

- An approach to the SHG Archives to loan items from the collection for display as part of the Sir Hudson Lowe exhibition at Plantation House brought to light the need for a formal lending policy to be developed by the Archives. Up until then, it was the informal non-written policy that no items in the collection were to leave the Archives once deposited in the Repository.
- Items have been loaned out from the Archives previously, including for the Sir Hudson Lowe exhibition, and was done via a decision through Executive Council due to no formal policy being in place.
- The SHG Archives Lending Policy seeks to enable items from the Archives collections to be loaned for on-Island exhibitions, subject to various conditions being met by the borrower.
- The Policy was considered and approved by the Social & Community Development Committee (SCDC) on 9 December 2020 subject to it being referred to Executive Council given the nature and importance of the various documents.

At the meeting:

- Chair of the SCDC presented the memo and the draft Archives Lending Policy. He also noted that objections had been received from a range of people and organisations, which were disseminated to Members prior to the meeting of ExCo.
 - Not all Members had the chance to read through these objections
- The Custodian of Records for the Archives and the Head of Corporate Support were invited to the table to provide further information with regards to the work of the Archives and the proposed Lending Policy.
- Members supported the need for a Policy to be in place for the SHG Archives
- One member noted that he visited the Sir Hudson Lowe exhibition at Plantation and was pleased to see some of the items on display which he would not have seen if the items were not loaned for the exhibition
 - Other members agreed that these documents and information of historical significance being made available via on-Island exhibitions would be a positive for the Island in terms of research and public interest
 - The Custodian of Records stated that during the exhibition display, the documents were behind glass cases and could only be viewed from a distance, whereas, at the Archives, the document could be looked at in more detail and is better for research purposes
- Members raised grave concerns with regards to the protection of items loaned out from the Archives and how they would be handled. It was questioned how the insurance cost could be gaged and how the items could be valued

considering that these are highly valuable 'irreplaceable' documents/records of historical significance.

- Members suggested that the decision be deferred subject to further consultation being done, and for objections to be examined and discussed by Members, as well as for research with regards to the insurance process and what system/processes other UK Overseas Territories have in place with regards to the loaning of items from their relevant Archive departments
- The decision to defer the approval, subject to further work, was taken

Executive Council
19 January 2021