

**WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**TO: Leisure Committee - January 2000**

**SUBJECT: ART GALLERY AND MUSEUM ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL  
POLICY**

**FROM: HEAD OF LEISURE AND AMENITIES**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1\_ Approval is sought for the revised and updated Acquisition and Disposal Policy for the Art Gallery and Museum at the Royal Pump Rooms.

1.2\_ BACKGROUND

1.3\_ The Acquisition and Disposal Policy (Appendix) is being updated under the requirements of the museums Registration scheme operated by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, formerly the Museums and Galleries Commission. This scheme requires museums to review their Acquisition and Disposal Policy at least every 5 years. This policy was last updated in January 1996.

1.4\_ The relocation of the collections of Leamington Spa Art Gallery and Museum into the new premises at the Royal Pump Rooms necessitated a review of the role of the Art Gallery and Museum, particularly in its interpretation of the history of the Royal Pump Rooms. This has provided new opportunities for developing the collections of Warwick District Council.

1.5 The Acquisition and Disposal Policy includes a new emphasis on acquiring items with a medical theme, reflecting the significance of the medical treatments carried out at the Royal Pump Rooms in the past. It will also strengthen the Arts' potential to contribute to holistic approaches to positive health. In particular it will enable links to be made with the creative health centres planned for Old Town and the proposed Cultural Quarter.

1.6 The new medical collection will also help attract new audiences to the Royal Pump Rooms. There is a great interest by Older people in the medical treatments carried out at the Royal Pump Rooms. It will also attract younger audiences to the Art Gallery and Museum through its links to the study of medicine in the national curriculum. The Policy includes provision for the acquisition of work by young contemporary British artists, who it is expected will also attract younger people (14-25 year olds) to the Gallery and introduce them to the history of the town by blurring the boundaries between Art, Science and Social History.

1.7 The revised policy reflects the changes in the type of work produced by contemporary artists and craftspeople, including that produced by artists within Warwick District, in the last 5 years.

## 1.5\_ KEY ISSUE STRATEGIES

The policy will contribute towards the following Key Issues .

EC1, EC6, SO6, EN4

## 1.6\_ CONCLUSION

This Acquisition and Disposal Policy will enable the Council to create an exciting Museum and Art Gallery collection for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This “living collection”, which reflects the wider changes in society, is vital in attracting new audiences, particularly younger people, to the Art Gallery and Museum, and in creating a service accessible to all residents and visitors to the Warwick District.

## 1.7\_ RECOMMENDATIONS

Members approve the revised Acquisition and Disposal Policy, January 2000.

Alison Plumridge  
Senior Curatorial Officer (Visual Arts)

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

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**Areas in District Affected:** All