

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION
February 2010

REPORT AUTHOR: *County Councillor*
 Portfolio Holder for Property

SUBJECT: *Brecknock Museum, Old Museum Store*

REPORT FOR: **Decision / Discussion / Information**

1. **Summary**

- 1.1 In order to release the Council from its lease responsibilities and to support the redevelopment of the Brecknock Museum it has been decided to jointly sell the Old Museum Store at Glamorgan Street, Brecon.

2. **Background**

- 2.1 Negotiations with the owners of the Old Museum Store, Brecknock Society and Museum Friends, have been conducted over several years. Essentially the Society has raised concerns about the Council's lack of maintenance in the period where the Council has been seeking funds from the (HLF) Heritage Lottery Fund to redevelop the museum.
- 2.2 During the negotiations the Council was clear that investment in the Old Store would be pointless if the Store was no longer required and if it was decided to sell the property. Whilst the Society understood this it was keen to protect its 'Landlord' responsibilities and to use any potential proceeds of a sale to support the redevelopment of the main Museum

3. **Proposal**

- 3.1 The Brecknock Society and Museum Friends have agreed to jointly sell the Old Museum Store and to use the proceeds; initially half to support the bid for HLF funds to redevelop the main museum and then for projects associated with the museum.

4. **Corporate Improvement Plan**

- 4.1 The sale of the Old Museum Store contributes to the rationalisation of the Council's property interests and supports the Brecon Property Rationalisation and Regeneration Project.

5. **Options Considered/Available**

- 5.1 Another option considered was the retention and repair of the Old Museum Store. This was disregarded as the authority has excess property in Brecon for its general service needs and more specifically there was no requirement for a museum store in the centre of Brecon.

6. **Preferred Choice and Reasons**

- 6.1 As there was no requirement for storage space in the centre of Brecon the use of financial resources, both capital (in terms of repairs) and revenue (in terms of running costs) is considered unwise.
- 6.2 Additionally the agreement of the Society to use proceeds of a sale for support of an HLF bid, and further museum projects, converts the Council's lease into 'value' for the benefit of the museum.

7.0 **Other Consultations Undertaken**

- 7.1 Local members have been updated at Brecon Project Board meetings, and subsequently, and are in broad agreement with the sale of the property to support the HLF bid.

Decision:	Reason for Decision:
To jointly sell the Old Museum Store in Glamorgan Street, Brecon with the Brecknock Society and Museum Friends.	To release the Council from its maintenance liabilities and to secure funds in support of an HLF museum bid and projects associated with the Museum.

Relevant Policy (ies):			
Within Policy:	Y	Within Budget:	Y

Relevant Local Member(s):	Cllrs Ashton, Meredith, Weale & Gwylim
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Head of Local & Environmental Services
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	

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Background Papers used to prepare Report:

