

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee	26 June 2020
<b>Subject:</b> Public Summary – Approval for Phased Reopening of Attractions, Archives and Reference Libraries	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Major Projects, Director of Open Spaces, Lead for COVID19 'Recovery From' Silver Group (Culture + Events)	<b>For decision</b>
<b>Report authors:</b> Nick Bodger, Cultural and Visitor Development Director Chris Earlie, Head of Tower Bridge Geoff Pick, Director of London Metropolitan Archives	

## PUBLIC SUMMARY

In the Government's *Our Plan to Rebuild: the UK Government's Covid-19 Recovery Strategy*, attractions, museums, archives and libraries are grouped together under Step 3 of the recovery programme and may open from 4 July.

Your Covid-19 'Recovery From' Silver Group (Culture + Events) on which all City Corporation cultural assets are represented has been undertaking preparatory work to enable reopening where it is possible to do so within the guidelines.

This report seeks approval from relevant officer groups and Committees for a phased schedule of reopening across viable City Corporation assets. and for agreement to the proposed approach to this that these assets will adopt. The assets proposing to reopen are Tower Bridge, Guildhall Art Gallery (not Amphitheatre), City Information Centre, Keats House, London Metropolitan Archives (and through it Guildhall Library), with City Business Library, for the time being, retaining and developing its online service.

The report acknowledges the importance of reopening assets where it is possible to do so, highlighting the links between a thriving cultural offer and economic growth in cities, the benefits reopening brings for local retail and hospitality SMEs as well as other cultural providers, and the role that the City Corporation may play in reassuring staff at external City attractions that it is safe to return to work. The report also seeks approval for some assets to remain shut where it is not logistically possible to realise social distancing protocols.

## Recommendations

Following agreement by the Covid19 'Recovery From' Silver Group (Culture) on 18 June 2020, and the Covid19 'Recovery From' Gold Group on 25 June 2020, the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee, agreed the following:

- Approved in principle the reopening of Tower Bridge (limited areas to ensure one-way flow), Guildhall Art Gallery (upper galleries, temporary exhibition space and Heritage Gallery only), City Information Centre, Keats House, London Metropolitan Archives (and through it Guildhall Library) and City Business Library (as an online service only for the time being), noting dates and logistics will be approved by relevant Chief Officers under delegated authority;
- Approved the approach adopted by assets planning to reopen, noting: a local community focus; compliance with Government and industry standards; approval by the City Surveyor of risk assessments; identification and non-return of staff identified as vulnerable; absorption of all associated costs within 2020/21 local risk budgets; adoption of a consistent approach across assets to reassure visitors; the undertaking of equality assessments and mitigating actions for any new measures introduced; delivery of digital access options where appropriate or beneficial; and the ability to close efficiently and effectively again without significant costs incurred by the process of shutting down and with a commitment to ensure pre-paying visitors are reimbursed;
- Approved continued closure of The Monument, City of London Police Museum, London's Roman Amphitheatre and Billingsgate Roman House and Baths for reasons of logistics.
- Approved the proposal that relevant Chief Officers adopt an initiative currently under view that would see staff at attractions not assigned to front of house roles forming a resource pool for opening attractions. The initiative proposed that these staff be redeployed to these attractions if staff shift teams need to be replaced due to isolation;
- Noted the below schedule of reopening across the City Corporation's attractions, archives and reference libraries (excepting Barbican) which was considered by the COVID-19 'Recovery From' Gold and Culture Silver Groups:

<b>Venue</b>	<b>First phase opening</b>	<b>Second phase opening (pending review of first)</b>	<b>Community (hyper-local) focus</b>
Tower Bridge	4-19 July, 10:30 to 16:00	20 July to date unknown, 10:30 to 19:00	City, Tower Hamlets and Southwark residents
Guildhall Art Gallery	25 July (Saturday), 10:30 to 16:00 – testing day	1-30 August, weekends only, 10:30 to 17:00; review to expand into days of week thereafter in context of demand, site works programmes and returning workforce	City, Islington and Tower Hamlets residents
City Information Centre	Tuesday 14 July, 11:00-15:00, Tuesday to Saturday	Saturday 1 August, review with potential to extend to 7-days-a-week and until later in the afternoon/evening	All City visitors
Keats House	7 July; 2 days a week alternating with 2 days a week for Keats Community Library; four one-hour visitor slots a day	From 30 September; scale up activities as permitted into days of week based on demand and lessons learned	Camden residents
London Metropolitan Archives and Guildhall Library	Officers returning over July and August	Public access for individual research commencing in early September with LMA providing access to Guildhall Library holdings	London research community – by appointment
City Business Library	Services to remain online	Services to remain online	SMEs / City business