

<b>Committee(s):</b> Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee	<b>Dated:</b> 04/11/2022
<b>Subject:</b> City Police Museum: declaration of space as surplus to IG requirements	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	N/A
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	N/A
<b>If so, how much?</b>	N/A
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	N/A
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	N/A
<b>Report of:</b> Damian Nussbaum, Executive Director Innovation and Growth	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Nick Bodger, Cultural and Visitor Development Director	

### Summary

This report seeks your Committee's approval to return the City Police Museum space to the Surveyor, noting that it is surplus to the Innovation and Growth department's requirements.

Members will recall that the Museum was closed with your Committee's approval in March 2021 as part of requisite savings targets under the TOM. This was balanced with consideration of its use as a Covid testing centre at the time and the then imminent expiration of the operational arrangement between the City Corporation and City of London Police (which expired on 30 October 2021).

Under that arrangement, ownership of the Museum collection remains with the City Police who are in discussion with the Surveyor about the potential to retain the Museum within the space (funded by them). This would be a separate arrangement between the Police and the Surveyor if agreed.

Staffing for the Museum was originally funded by your Committee and sat within the Cultural Services Team (now IG Destination City); with the loss of that staffing as part of the TOM savings, the Museum no longer has context within this team. Furthermore, IG Destination City employees are being migrated to IG West Wing first floor desks and so the space (which sits within the Guildhall Library footprint) will have no meaningful use for the team once the migration is complete.

### Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Declare the space previously occupied by the City of London Police Museum within Guildhall Library as surplus to the Innovation and Growth Department's requirements and return the space to the City Surveyor.

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. In response to an opportunity to apply for a grant under the 'Our Heritage' programme from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the City of London Corporation successfully bid for and managed funding to deliver a new City of London Police Museum. The new museum opened on 7 November 2016.
2. A contract with Heritage Lottery Fund was signed on receipt of the monies. This listed various requirements about how the monies may be spent and the business managed. The contract has since expired (August 2018).
3. Following this, an operational arrangement that sought to lay out the division of duties between the two departments managing the Police Museum business was drawn up and agreed by your Committee and the Police Committee.
4. The departments managing the business were the then Cultural Services division which sat in Town Clerk's (now IG Destination City) and the City Police.
5. The operational arrangement described the governance arrangements for the Museum. Under that arrangement, ownership and maintenance of the Museum collection remained with the City Police, while curation, staffing and marketing were provided by your Cultural Services teams (now Destination City).
6. During the pandemic, part of the Police Museum collection was packed down and a Covid testing centre was opened in the space the Museum occupied. The test centre closed earlier this year and since then, the space has remained vacant.
7. The space was chosen as an appropriate site for a test centre at Guildhall because – at the time – the Museum's footprint and location prevented social distancing and other safety requirements being realised and thus could not open to the public until all Covid restrictions had been lifted.
8. The Museum was closed with your Committee's approval in March 2021 as part of requisite savings targets under the TOM. This was balanced with consideration of its use as a testing centre and the then imminent expiration of the operational arrangement between the City Corporation and Police (which expired on 30 October 2021).

### **Current Position**

9. Ownership of the Museum collection remains with the City Police who are in discussion with the Surveyor about an ongoing arrangement to retain the Museum within the space (funded by them).
10. If not agreed, the Police would be asked to remove the collection from the space, where it is currently stored.
11. Following your Committee's approval of the TOM savings in April 2021 which included the cost of staffing and marketing for the Museum, there are no available resources to support the Museum's continuance from within the IG Destination City's Local risk budget.

12. With the loss of that support, the Museum no longer has context within IG Destination City and it is therefore recommended that it is returned to the Surveyor
13. Furthermore, Destination City employees are being migrated to IG West Wing first floor desks and so the space (which sits within the Guildhall Library footprint) will have no meaningful use for them once the migration is complete.

## Proposals

14. The space is owned by the City Corporation and it is recommended it be handed back to the City Surveyor for consideration on future usage. Until such time the space will remain the responsibility of the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee.
15. The Police are currently considering this space, in discussion with the Surveyor, as interim accommodation for the Museum until such a time as headline exhibits from the collection may be subsumed within the new Museum of London, which opens in 2026. Alternatively, they may choose to remain in the space indefinitely, (funding the Museum under a new and direct arrangement with the City Surveyor).
16. The future of the City of London Police collection is – as yet – unclear. In any case, some or all of it will be accessible by the public in time through the options described above.

## Corporate & Strategic Implications

- **Strategic implications:** the proposals in this paper will enable IG Destination City to better focus on the core objectives of the Destination City Plan which seeks to grow visitor footfall and spend in the City. Furthermore, it will enable the Surveyor to consider the most appropriate use for the space which is currently unoccupied.

Access to the City Police Museum Collection will be realised either under separate arrangement between the City Police and the Surveyor and/or through the inclusion of headline exhibits within the new Museum of London when it opens in 2026.

- **Financial implications:** IG Destination City resources are focussed on delivery of the IG Destination Plan. There is no available resource from within its local risk budgets to support the City Police Museum in the space which – with staffing and marketing – previously cost the team just under £144,000 per annum. This was a saving agreed by your Committee as part of the TOM process.
- **Resource implications:** none identified.
- **Legal implications:** none identified.
- **Risk implications** none identified.
- **Equalities implications:** none identified.

- **Climate implications:** none identified
- **Security implications:** none identified

## **Conclusion**

17. The City of London police Museum space is surplus to the Innovation and Growth Department's operational requirements and the department therefore seeks your approval to declare the property as surplus. If agreed, the City Surveyor will then consider future usage of the premises for consideration by the relevant Committee.

## **Appendices**

- None

## **Nick Bodger**

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