

**Manchester City Council
Report for Resolution**

Report to: Art Galleries Committee – 13 February 2015
Subject: Manchester City Galleries' report and revenue budget 2015/16
Report of: Director of Manchester City Galleries and City Treasurer

Summary

The purpose of this report is to report on performance during 2014/15; outline how we plan to deliver our vision in 2015/16 and present Manchester City Galleries' draft revenue budget for 2015/16 for the approval of the Art Galleries Committee.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

1. Approve the contents of the report, including the draft cash limit budget for 2014/15 of £2,003,000.
2. Recommend the budget to Executive for approval as part of the Council's budget setting process.
3. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive and City Treasurer to make any technical adjustments required to take account of the impact of changes in 2014/15 and 2015/16 budgets.

Wards Affected: All

Community Strategy Spine	Summary of the contribution to the strategy
Performance of the economy of the region and sub region	This report sets out proposals for the delivery of a balanced budget for 2015/16, incorporating savings of £172,000.
Reaching full potential in education and employment	This service, along with all others in the directorate, aims to support individuals, families and communities achieve best outcomes.
Individual and collective self esteem – mutual respect	Individual respect and community resilience is a key theme within the Neighbourhood Focus Strategy to which City Galleries contribute.
Neighbourhoods of Choice	Creating sustainable neighbourhoods where people want to live, work and stay as they become more economically independent is key to Growth and Neighbourhoods' budget strategy, towards which this budget contributes.

Financial Consequences – Revenue and Capital

The proposals set out in this report form part of the draft budget submitted to the Executive and Council.

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

None

1.0 Introduction

Manchester City Galleries sits within Manchester City Council's Growth and Neighbourhoods directorate and forms part of the strategic partnership between Manchester City Council and the University of Manchester. The Manchester Museums Partnership, which is in receipt of Major Partner Museum funding from Arts Council England (ACE), brings together three organisations – Manchester City Galleries, Whitworth Art Gallery and The Manchester Museum. We all work together, across governance structures, to deliver the city's objectives and promote Manchester as a centre of knowledge, creativity and culture.

2.0 Vision for 2015/16

We will continue to deliver our vision to:

- Be internationally recognised for the quality of our artistic programme and collections and the way we marry the historic and contemporary
- Be a vibrant entry point to art for all Mancunians, firing their imaginations, dreams and abilities
- Make Manchester an aspirational place to live, work and visit

We will focus on these key objectives:

- Consolidate the step change in the scale, quality and international standing of our artistic programme
- Maximise the current and future impact of our collection
- Maximise the impact of our work with young people, their families and people least likely to engage with culture
- Continue to build audiences and commercial potential at Platt Hall
- Work with partners across the city, with the support of ACE, to shape messages about Manchester as a year-round cultural destination and maximise the impact of the re-opening of Whitworth Art Gallery and the launch of Home
 - Make Manchester City Galleries a more sustainable and resilient organisation

3.0 Performance in 2014/15

After an exceptional year in 2013/14, Manchester Art Gallery and Platt Hall will once more welcome half a million visitors in 2014/15. Our vision to present internationally important art continues to bring economic benefit to the city and local residents' remain hungry for our higher quality programming.

Manchester Art Gallery is set to attract 470,000 visitors and most pleasingly, has maintained last year's high numbers of visits from people who didn't come before, including black and minority ethnic people, disabled people and different socio-economic groups. Our audience profile continues to match that of our local population, which is exceptional amongst galleries, nationally.

Similarly, visits to the Platt Hall have held at 21,500.

Audiences continue to respond positively to our extended opening hours. The gallery's Thursday Lates programme has grown in popularity and vibrancy, attracting 3-400 visitors each week and up to 1,000 for large scale events. Late night opening is popular with tourists ("Excellent idea, great resource for the city at night") and has a loyal local audience who average 8.5 Lates a year ("Brilliant idea, It's the only time I can visit.").

However, it remains the quality and popularity of our artistic programme that draws the crowds. 2015/16's exhibitions and displays included:

- A significant survey of new and recent works by celebrated Portuguese artist Joana Vasconcelos, including the world premier of *Britannia*, a monumental fabric sculpture made especially for Manchester Art Gallery
- A major show by renowned British conceptual artist and Manchester Metropolitan University graduate Ryan Gander, who created exclusive works for us in celebration of his connections with the city
- *The Sensory War 1914-2014*, marking the centenary of the First World War by exploring how artists have communicated the impact of war on the senses, blending works from our own important collection of art from the period with major historic and contemporary loans
- The first stage of transformation of the Gallery of Craft and Design on the top floor of Manchester Art Gallery – an important step towards re-focusing our fashion, costume and decorative arts collections at Manchester Art Gallery
- *Cotton Couture*, the latest exhibition to focus on particular Manchester stories, targeted at Manchester communities, which explores the work of the Cotton Board in the 1950s through the city's remarkable costume collection
- Stanley Spencer's *Heaven in a Hell of War*, a series of large-scale arched canvases detailing scenes from the artist's own wartime experiences
- The Clore Art Studio continuing to provide alternative perspectives for families and schools groups on the artistic programme, which included using uncooked spaghetti and marshmallows to examine the post war trend of re-building and architecture for *Sensory War!*
- *Something Blue*, a hundred years of wedding dresses from the Gallery of Costume's collections and an exhibition celebrating *250 Years of Platt Hall*

We've also built on our ground-breaking arts and health and learning programmes. Of particular note in 2015/16:

- Our new *Open Doors* sessions, an early opening one Saturday a month for families with autistic children in collaboration with the National Autistic Society
- A series of community engagement sessions to connect local people with Ryan Gander's new public art work in Beswick
- An increased health and wellbeing programme, including monthly day and evening drop-in sessions to encourage relaxation through our collection using mindfulness techniques
- Our ongoing sessions for older people with dementia in partnership with Gorton Day Centre and The Limes in Didsbury

- The completion of our collaborative work with St Augustine's Primary School around the Thomas Horsfall exhibition, which led to visits by over 8,000 pupils, teacher training for 67 teachers and many volunteering opportunities
- A monthly 'philosophy café' in partnership with Age Manchester, inspired by the gallery's collections and exhibitions
- An expansion of our English Corner (English as a Second Language) initiative which won the *Building Skills for Life* award in Adult Learners Week 2014, to link with Manchester Adult Education Centre's *Talk English* programme

Volunteering continues to be a growth area. The gallery has extended its range and number of opportunities to work with 70 volunteers each quarter, delivering around 4000 hours' support for the service and providing valuable work experience for people trying to re-enter the workplace.

We loaned 96 artworks to 36 UK galleries and 10 international venues in 2014/15, further strengthening our ability to borrow important works for the city. Four of Manchester's Turner watercolours were featured in Tate's *Late Turner - Painting Set Free* in London in late 2014 and two of these will travel to Los Angeles and San Francisco in early 2015.

We have also been making more effective use of the city's cultural assets by identifying collections that would be of greater public benefit if transferred within the Manchester Museums Partnership. For example, we have transferred Manchester City Galleries' wallpaper and archaeological collections to the Whitworth Art Gallery and the Manchester Museum respectively.

In an extremely difficult economic climate, we still managed to achieve £453,000 in commercial income (including retail, catering and venue hire) and £320,000 from fundraising and membership. We also secured two exceptional grants to support the development of our displays and collections: £307,000 from the HLF Collecting Cultures scheme to collect couture fashion for the costume collection and £135k from DCMS/Wolfson Foundation towards the transformation of the Gallery of Craft and Design.

The strategic partnership with the University and the joint leadership of our service and the Whitworth Art Gallery by Dr Maria Balshaw continues to be of great benefit.

4.0 Budget overview

2014/15

The service is projecting an est. £150k overspend, largely due to unforeseen m:people costs and an underachievement in retail income, which we will address next year with the implementation of our new retail strategy.

2015/16

We request that the committee approve a cash limit budget of £2,003,000 for

2015/16, which includes a savings target of £172k to be delivered through voluntary severance/early retirement and a partial service re-design.

Expenditure	Proposed gross cash limit revenue budgets (£000)
Salaries	2174
Central recharge/support services	20
Premises	253
Transport	164
Supplies and Services	823
Acquisitions	180
Total	3615
Funding Source	
MCC cash limit	2003
ACE Major Partnership Funding	459
Art Galleries Trust (fundraising)	320
Commercial, schools and earned income	607
HLF Collecting Cultures	225
Total	3615

5.0 The delivery of our vision in 2015/16

Next year, we will build upon the great success of our 14/15 artistic and learning programmes and continue to deliver international profile and local resonance.

Major exhibitions and displays will include:

- The re-opening of the magnificent Gallery of Design on the top floor of Manchester Art Gallery with *40 Years of Japanese Fashion Design*
- A major survey of craft and design from East Asia, *Eastern Influences*
- *In the Footsteps of a Master* featuring the work of Emily Allchurch, including our first ever crowd-funded new commission, to be based on a painting by Adolphe Valette
- A new display showcasing the gallery's pioneering collection of 1930s home furnishings
- Our biannual, groundbreaking contribution to Manchester International Festival (details currently embargoed)
- A mid career survey of the work of respected artist Matthew Darbyshire: *An Exhibition for Modern Living*, featuring some of the very best international contemporary art from the Zabudowicz collection in a new partnership arrangement
- A significant international exhibition in collaboration with MOSI: *The Imitation Game*
- *Artists in the Frame*: a display of self-portraits including the last ever by Van Dyke, recently saved for the nation by the National Portrait Gallery and Art Fund
- *Elsa Schiaparelli and Thirties Fashion*, an exploration of the important

Surrealist fashion designer at Platt Hall

Our learning programmes will continue to improve the lives of Manchester residents. For example:

- Our schools and colleges team will work with primary schools to deliver the whole-school arts week initiative, *Arts Award* and use the gallery to connect with the core curriculum English provision in an initiative funded by the Max Reinhardt Trust
- Building on the success of the Thomas Horsfall project, the Horsfall collection will be loaned to community groups and schools, to make our collections even more visible and accessible
- Our health and well being programmes will connect with mental health charities in Manchester including Start, Studio One, the Creative Centre for Living and Turning Point as well as rolling out drop in 'mindfulness' sessions for the city's residents
- We will increase opportunities for adult learners, including targeted work with older residents and dementia patients, English language training for new arrivals and a lively Thursday Lates programme
- We will also work with the Culture team to identify and target wards under-represented in our audience profile

We will continue to maximise the benefits of partnerships across the city and nationally and in particular, support the re-opening of Whitworth Art Gallery and the launch of Home.

10. Key Policies and Considerations

(a) Equal Opportunities

The service is committed to equality of access – both physical and intellectual. Our vision for 2015/16 and beyond includes consulting and engaging with the widest possible audiences, building on our success in 2014/15. We will also continue to deliver a programme of socially inclusive volunteering opportunities across all venues.

(b) Risk Management

The service takes an extremely robust approach to risk management, as outlined in CCS and City Galleries' contributions to the Growth and Neighbourhoods' Business Plan.

(c) Legal Considerations

None identified.