

Annex B

An outline model for local Museums partnerships.

Councils should be invited to **form new local museum partnerships** that will drive locally appropriate solutions for improving performance and ensure that resources are devolved to the frontline to keep museums open.

Partnerships should be **focused on core museums**. These museums would have a 'duty of care' to other museums. This would consist of an offer of advice and support and of a resourced administrative and management facility. Core museums would work with other museums and agencies to deliver programmes based on achieving agreed local priority outcomes.

These **partnerships should embrace** nationally funded museums, galleries and archives; university museums and galleries; other regional and local museums and galleries; social entrepreneurs and the voluntary sector; health trusts and other strategic partners; and local businesses. They should ensure the effective sharing of resources, expertise and collections and should show an appetite for innovation, risk and increased commercial and social entrepreneurship.

Partnerships should make a **demonstrable commitment to their own transformation** and a commitment to the development of other museums and services. In creating partnerships, councils and their partners should have regard to the size and nature of the population which they serve (and how accessible museums are to them); the quality of their collections; and the expertise of all their staff, management competence and the support of their governing body.

Each **local partnership would establish appropriate governance arrangements** to suit the nature of their local circumstances, including local partners in these and linking into appropriate partnership arrangements.

Local museum partnerships should be supported by a **national arrangement, which would enable the transfer of learning across the sector**.

Each local partnership should also be encouraged to **seek adoption by a "big brother" among the family of national museums**, who would in their turn be encouraged by Ministers to sponsor a family of local museums with whom they might share expertise and insights – if not collections and resources. This would unlock their national capacity, but also the unique knowledge and expertise held in these institutions.

All funding should be devolved to partnerships, with core museums responsible for the financial management of their partnerships and the

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delivery of agreed outcomes. Local partnerships may join together to commission appropriate national support services as detailed above.

The partnerships should collectively decide and commission relevant national support including the management of museum accreditation, collections policy and other aspects of governance previously provided by MLA.

The **programme should begin to operate from April 2011**, with an initial timescale of two or three years.

Subject to a steer from Members, the next step is to work in consultation with the professional bodies on a detailed costed proposal that also reflects the outcome of current work to determine LGG resources to support cultural improvement in the new organisation.