



**Report to: Joint Museums Committee, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

**Report of: Museums Manager**

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**Subject: COUNTY MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT**

**1. Recommendation**

**1.1 That the Joint Committee note the planning underway to manage the County Museum's upcoming lease ends.**

**2. Background**

2.1 Worcestershire County Council holds two leases for the area making up the County Museum at Hartlebury Castle.

2.2 Worcestershire County Council is also a tenant at its Collections Store at Hartlebury Trading Estate.

**3. Information**

3.1 All these leases will come to an end over the next few years. It is important for our partners and visitors that the pathway for development is firmly decided upon with enough time to enable a smooth transition at lease end.

3.2 The museums and County Council property team have started work to investigate the lease-end options for the two sites, with the aim of discussing those with partners and presenting an options appraisal to this committee next year, to then be recommended for a decision to the County Council Cabinet.

3.3 The attached exempt appendix summarises the lease positions and the property investigation work, which are classed as exempt as they are commercially sensitive.

**Ward(s):**

**All wards**

**Contact Officer:**

**Philippa Tinsley, Tel: 01905 23371, email:  
philippa.tinsley@worcester.gov.uk**

**Supporting Papers:**

**Appendix (Exempt) County Museum Property Leases**