

SCRUTINY BULLETIN

The papers attached are primarily for Councillors' information but will be made publicly available on the internet, with the exception of Part 2 items. They may relate to work in progress or updates on reports which have already been considered by the Scrutiny Committees.

The provision of this information does not override the authority of the Standing Orders as set out in the Council's Constitution. For example, Councillors remain entitled to ask for a specific item to be placed on a Scrutiny agenda, request a call-in or to ask questions of a Portfolio Holder.

If require further information please contact Jo Quinnell, Assistant Democratic Services Officer on 01392 265197 or alternatively email committee.services@exeter.gov.uk

1	Scrutiny Programme Board minutes - 3 March 2024	3 - 6
2	Procurement Quarterly Report - Q1	7 - 10
3	Treasury Management Quarterly Report - Q3	11 - 14
4	RAMM Quarterly Highlights Report	15 - 20

This page is intentionally left blank

SCRUTINY PROGRAMME BOARD

Monday 4 March 2024

Present:-

Councillors M Mitchell (Chair), Rees and Vizard

Apologies:-

Councillors Allcock and Atkinson

Also Present:-

Monitoring Officer, Democratic Services Manager and Democratic Services Officers (SLS and PMD)

30

APOLOGIES AND APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Apologies were noted. Councillor M Mitchell was appointed Chair for the meeting, in Councillor Allcock's absence.

31

SCRUTINY NOTE OF 13 DECEMBER MEETING

The Democratic Services Manager advised that he had met the Director Finance to talk about incorporating the Budget scrutiny process into the Committee cycle.

During discussion:-

- Councillor Rees reminded Members that the Director Finance had suggested June 2024 for a single-item Combined Strategic Scrutiny and Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee meeting;
- Members established that it would not be practical to hold a briefing before the beginning of the period of heightened sensitivity;
- the Chair felt that the public consultation needed considering;
- Councillor Rees enquired about doing a scrutiny of the spending of the budget, as agreed by the Director Finance;
- the Monitoring Officer reminded Members of the existing quarterly budget reports, although Councillor Vizard remarked that these currently went to the Executive and not to Scrutiny.

Members **AGREED** to schedule a single-item Combined Strategic Scrutiny and Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee meeting (around Budget) for June 2024, with a follow-up meeting in the autumn.

32

SCRUTINY PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS

The Chair expressed his approval for both scrutiny proposals but felt that the issue of Exeter City Council Paris St Office Usage was not weighty enough to warrant a task & finish group. During discussion:-

Exeter City Council Paris St Office Usage

- it was confirmed that that this was an operational matter which was firmly on SMB's agenda;
- there were several possible solutions, which would be presented to Members;
- Councillor Vizard suggested a spotlight review be more suitable than a task & finish group;

- there was a consensus for this item to be added to the June agenda of the Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee; and
- the Monitoring Officer advised that not all figures might be available by then.

Leisure Services

- the Chair advised that SMB had suggested that this item be added to the June agenda of the Strategic Scrutiny Committee; and
- the Monitoring Officer confirmed that SMB were highly supportive of this piece of scrutiny.

It was **AGREED** that:-

- Exeter City Council Paris St Office Usage would be added to the June agenda of the Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee; and
- Leisure Services would be added to the June agenda of the Strategic Scrutiny Committee.

33 **NOTICE OF MOTION BOX SHIFTING - DISCUSSION ON REFERRAL TO SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Chair reminded Members of the context for this item, namely the Full Council meeting of 20 February 2024, where Councillor Read had been advised that the matter would be referred to a scrutiny committee. During discussion, it was **AGREED** that Box Shifting would be added to the June agenda of the Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee, Members and officers having established that the March meeting would be unrealistic.

34 **DRAFT WORK PLAN**

The Democratic Services Officer (SLS) talked Members through the draft work plan. During discussion:-

- Members felt that the Combined Strategic Scrutiny and Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee would be the best forum for the Exeter Plan;
- Councillor Vizard advised that the item Update on Street Cleansing/Bin Collection scheduled for the March meeting could be removed from the work plan, having been covered extensively at the February 2024 meeting of the Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee; and
- Members opted not to bring forward the item Review of Consultation Policy.

It was **AGREED** that:-

- the Exeter Plan would be the subject of a single-item Combined Strategic Scrutiny and Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee meeting in October 2024 (exact date to be agreed);
- the item Update on Street Cleansing/Bin Collection scheduled for the March meeting would be removed from the work plan; and
- the Democratic Services Officer (SLS) would update the work plan as a result of this meeting.

35 **STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

The Chair read out the following statement on the subject of external speakers:-

“You will have noticed from several recent email exchanges that there have been

requests from Scrutiny Committee Members to invite external speakers / expert witnesses to address this Council's Scrutiny Committees.

The Local Government Act 2000 does indeed state that an Overview and Scrutiny Committee of a Local Authority may invite other persons to attend meetings of the committee. However, this must be agreed in advance by the relevant Committee in question in order to ensure a majority of Members are in support of the proposal to do so. Once agreed, an invitation through the Chair can be issued to the individual for a subsequent meeting.

It has also been suggested that Scrutiny Committee Members be consulted by email about inviting external speakers. Such an approach, taking place 'behind closed doors' (as it were), would not be consistent with either good governance or the Nolan principle of Openness. Above all, this Council's Constitution is clear: it is not the remit of this Board to allow, refuse or even discuss external invitations to Scrutiny Committees.

Therefore I invite Scrutiny Committee Members to submit any such requests at the next meetings of this Council's two Scrutiny committees on: 14 March for Strategic Scrutiny and 28 March for Customer Focus Scrutiny."

The Democratic Officer (SLS) reminded Members that an external speaker (Dr Daniel Lash) was scheduled for the September meeting of the Strategic Scrutiny Committee meeting.

The date of 21 May 2024 was agreed for the next meeting of the Scrutiny Programme Board.

Finally, Members placed on record their thanks to Sharon Sissons for her hard work and dedication throughout her tenure as Democratic Services Officer.

(The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 6.22 pm)

Chair

This page is intentionally left blank

Scrutiny Bulletin: 8 April 2024

Title of Update: Procurement Quarterly Report – Q1

Relevant Officers: David Hodgson, Director Finance & s151 Officer
Chanelle Busby, Service Lead Commercial & Procurement

Contact for general enquiries:

Jo Quinnell, Assistant Democratic Services Officer, Democratic Services, Room 4.36

Email: jo.quinnell@exeter.gov.uk. Tel: 01392 265197

1. What is the update about?

The councils recently completed Value for Money Audit made a recommendation to consider reporting all contract waivers to members to ensure transparency and accountability in the decision making process and to ensure that members are aware of any movement away from standard procurement procedures and are able to hold the Council accountable for its decisions.

As such, a quarterly update will now be provided to Members via this scrutiny bulletin to cover procurement exemptions and additionally contract award data and any other information which might be useful for Members to be updated on.

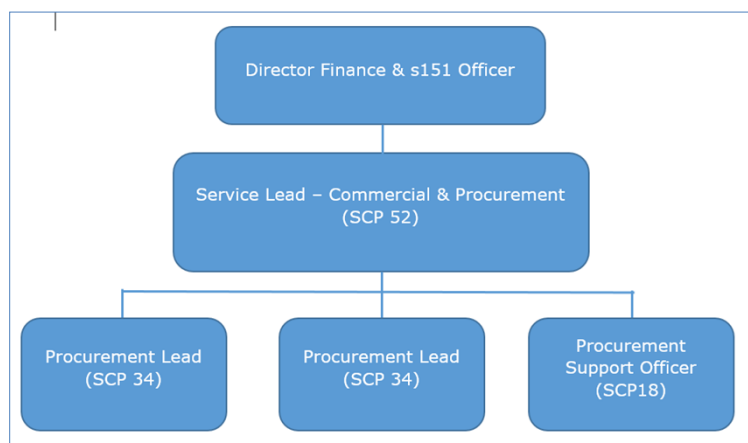
As this is the first of these updates, data has been provided for the last 12 months to set some context. Ongoing updates will be completed quarterly so data will be only for a three month period.

2. Background

The Councils Procurement Team was established in October 2018 bringing with it a centralised procurement function to support Officers across the Council to ensure that contract spend was both compliant and able to demonstrate value for money. Since its inception, new processes and protocols have been established for all elements of procurement activity and there is now a robust gateway sign off procedure ensure appropriate governance on spend is captured.

The initial structure is still in place as shown below, but will likely come under review with the new corporate restructure that is underway.

The current Service Lead is due to leave ECC at the end of May 2024 and this will likely lead to some changes in the way the team works and is led.



At present, the Service Lead and Procurement Leads support Officers with all procurement activity over £100k and as required for lower value spend. This includes identifying the procurement strategy, assisting with the specification writing, drafting and publishing tenders, managing tender questions, managing the evaluation process, completing due diligence checks, drafting and arranging signing of the contracts all in line with procurement rules and legislation.

The Procurement Support Officer provides support to the Service Lead and Procurement Leads on the administrative side of the procurement process and also maintains any documents which the Council is required to publish under the Transparency Act such as the Contracts Register and the Exemption Register. This role is also entirely responsible for day to day support for Officers across the Council on the corporate purchasing ordering system which was implemented in late 2022.

3. Exemptions

The Council's Contract Procedure Rules set out three clear reasons where an exemption can be permitted. These are:

1. INCREASED COST / LOSS OF INCOME - The Council will incur significant avoidable costs or lose significant income.
2. LIMITED MARKETS – A competitive tendering or quotation process is not appropriate because of limited market conditions.
3. REPUTATIONAL DAMAGE – The Council would be criticised for failing to act promptly.

An 'exemption form' is also required where a compliant direct award is made by an officer through an appropriate framework available with mechanism for direct award.

The reason for including this on the exemption form is that it gives a clear audit trail of where the Council is making a direct award and ensures that the decision to do this is justified and signed off at the appropriate level.

The table below shows the number of exemptions made during the last 12 months and the reasons given along with the values of these exempted contracts.

Exemption Reason	No. of exemptions	Value of exemptions
Increased cost	0	£0
Increased cost & Reputational Damage	3	£57,262
Limited Markets	4	£533,210
Reputational Damage	4	£277,695
Limited Markets & Reputational Damage	1	£480,272
Compliant Direct Award	1	£250,000
	Total	£1,598,440

4. Contract Awards

	Number of Contracts Awarded	Value of Contracts Awarded
All Contracts over £5k	77	£3,848,697
All over threshold* contracts	5	£2,242,898

*Current GPA thresholds (Jan 2024): Works £5,372,609, Services £214,904

5. Additional items of interest

Strategy

In January 2024, Executive Committee agreed for the Council to sign up to the new Devon Districts Procurement Strategy. This Strategy sets out some high level themes under which objectives will be delivered within the next four years.

Alongside this Strategy will sit an action plan which is specific to how ECC will deliver their objectives locally. A summary of the action plan and the work planned/ underway will be reported to members on an ongoing basis.

Public Procurement Reform

In October 2024, following over two years of planning and consultation, the new Public Procurement Regulations will be launched.

The Procurement Act 2023 will seek to remove bureaucratic barriers and level the playing field for smaller businesses so they can compete for more contracts.

The main benefits are:

- creating a simpler and more flexible commercial system that better meets our country's needs while remaining compliant with our international obligations
- opening up public procurement to new entrants such as small businesses and social enterprises so that they can compete for and win more public contracts.
- taking tougher action on underperforming suppliers and excluding suppliers who pose unacceptable risks
- embedding transparency throughout the commercial lifecycle so that the spending of taxpayers' money can be properly scrutinised

It is hoped that these changes will drive innovation, deliver better outcomes and embed transparency right through the commercial lifecycle, so everyone can access procurement data and see how money is spent.

A large volume of work will be required to ready the Council for this implementation both in terms of training Procurement staff and Officers across the Council in the new regime and updating our procurement rules and process to take account of the changes.

Agenda Item 3

Scrutiny Bulletin: 8 April 2024

Title of Update: Treasury Management Quarterly Report – Q3

Relevant Officers: David Hodgson, Director Finance & s151 Officer
Claire Hodgson, Finance Manager - Corporate

Contact for general enquiries:

Jo Quinnell, Assistant Democratic Services Officer, Democratic Services, Room 4.36

Email: jo.quinnell@exeter.gov.uk. Tel: 01392 265197

1. What is the update about?

The CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) Code of Practice for treasury Management 2021 recommends that members be updated on treasury management activities at least quarterly. The Treasury Management Strategy for the coming year, the annual Treasury Management outturn, and the mid-year review are presented to Executive and Council. The new requirement from 2023/24 to update Members on a quarterly basis does not require reports to be formally presented to Council. This report provides an update on the third quarter of 2023/24 in compliance with the Code.

2. Report Details:

2.1 Interest Rate Forecasts

The Council has appointed Link Group as its treasury advisor and part of their service is to assist the Council to formulate a view on interest rates. The following table gives Link Group forecast to March 2027.

	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27
BANK RATE	5.25	5.25	4.75	4.25	3.75	3.25	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
3 month ave earnings	5.30	5.30	4.80	4.30	3.80	3.30	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
6 month ave earnings	5.20	5.10	4.60	4.10	3.70	3.30	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10
12 month ave earnings	5.00	4.90	4.40	3.90	3.60	3.20	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.20	3.20
5 yr PWLB	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.80	3.70	3.60	3.60	3.50	3.50	3.50
10 yr PWLB	4.70	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.80	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.70
25 yr PWLB	5.20	5.10	4.90	4.80	4.60	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.20	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10
50 yr PWLB	5.00	4.90	4.70	4.60	4.40	4.20	4.10	4.00	4.00	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.90

2.2. Treasury Management Strategy

The Council approved the 2023/24 Treasury Management Strategy Statement, including the Annual Investment Strategy, at its meeting on 21 February 2023. In accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice it sets out the Council's investment priorities as being; Security of capital, Liquidity, and Yield. Officers review the creditworthiness of counterparties when making investment decisions, and Link provide updates of changes to credit ratings.

The Council's investment strategy was to continue to hold small surplus funds and to seek to utilise its Call Accounts, Money Market Funds, use the Government's Debt Management Office and use short dated deposits which would be placed with Local Authorities, Banks or Building Societies in-line with the Council's counterparty list.

The Council's stated borrowing strategy was to defer borrowing until later years, where possible, and to reduce the size of the Council's investment balance instead, however some targeted long term borrowing may be undertaken where the costs will be offset against future income streams.

3. Investments

3.1 The Council's fixed term deposits held at 31 December 2023 were:

Amount	Investment	Interest rate	Date Invested	Maturity Date	No. of Days
£5,000,000	London Borough of Barking & Dagenham	5.45%	26/09/23	03/01/24	99
£4,000,000	Cheltenham Borough Council	5.35%	14/22/23	15/01/24	62
£3,000,000	Standard Chartered – Sustainable deposit	5.70%	15/09/23	15/03/24	182
£5,000,000	Suffolk County Council	5.70%	30/11/23	30/01/24	61
£2,000,000	Barclays Green notice account	5.25%	19/07/22	65 day notice	Min: 65
£1,000,000	Barclays Standard notice account	5.25%	19/07/22	65 day notice	Min: 65
£20,000,000					

3.1 The Council had access to four Money Market Funds during the period. The money market funds allow immediate access to our funds and spreads risk as it is pooled with investments by other organisations and invested across a wide range of financial institutions.

Amount	Investment	Interest rate*
£10,000,000	Federated Investors	4.94%
£0	CCLA - The Public Sector Deposit Fund	4.83%
£10,000,000	Black Rock Asset Management	4.87%
£3,000,000	Aberdeen Standard Investments	4.91%
£23,000,000		

* Interest rate is variable (therefore rates quoted are an average to 31st December 2023)

- 3.2 The Council made investments in the CCLA's LAMIT Property Fund in 2016. It should be noted that investments in property funds are a long term commitment which means that there can be fluctuations on the return from the investment.

Amount	Investment	Dividend Yield as at Q2
£5,000,000	CCLA – LAMIT Property Fund	5.18%

- 3.3 The Council can utilise the Government's Debt Management Office (DMO) account and a reserve account with Barclays. These accounts have not been utilised during the period.

4 Borrowing

- 4.1 When the 2023/24 budget was set the Council's Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) at 31st March 2023 was expected to be £250.75m, rising by £3.58m to £254.33m by 31st March 2024 to fund the capital programme. The Council is in an under-borrowed position, meaning that the CFR has not been fully funded with loan debt as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow has been used as a temporary measure. This strategy is prudent as borrowing costs continue to rise.
- 4.2 The Council's long term borrowing is currently £165.490m (£93.246m General Fund and £72.244m HRA) and there is no short-term borrowing. No further external borrowing has been undertaken during the quarter.
- 4.3 Details of loans are set out below:

Principal Amount outstanding as at 31 December 2023	Lender	Interest rate	Loan type	Date of repayment
£56,884,000	PWLB maturity (HRA)	3.48%	Maturity	28/03/2062
£1,892,228	PWLB 25 year annuity	2.34%	Annuity	11/01/2044
£1,840,313	PWLB 25 year annuity	2.08%	Annuity	04/04/2044
£4,151,400	PWLB 30 year annuity	1.61%	Annuity	26/09/2049
£8,038,745	PWLB 35 year annuity	1.71%	Annuity	26/09/2054
£34,154,725	PWLB 50 year annuity	1.80%	Annuity	26/09/2069
£15,360,000	PWLB maturity (HRA)	1.31%	Maturity	14/04/2070
£43,168,547	PWLB 50 year annuity	1.78%	Annuity	24/12/2071

- 4.4 The ongoing borrowing requirement will be monitored and a decision of whether to take further borrowing will be made in light of need and current and forecast interest rates. If additional borrowing is required advice will be sought from the treasury management advisors in order that the most cost effective form of borrowing can be secured. The decision of whether to take external long-term borrowing is delegated to the Section 151 Officer and Leader of the Council.

5 Compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits

The Council sets in February each year prudential indicators for Treasury Management to ensure that proper control of borrowing and investing is maintained. These indicators can be found in the Council's budget book. For 2023/24 the Treasury Management Strategy included the new liability benchmark indicator which compares the CFR with actual borrowing to 2031. At Quarter 3 2023/24 there is no projected significant deviation from these indicators.

During the quarter ended 31 December 2023, the Council has operated within the treasury and prudential indicators set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2023/24. No difficulties are envisaged for the current or future years in complying with these indicators.

All treasury management operations have also been conducted in full compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Practices. The approved limits within the Annual Investment Strategy were not breached during the quarter.

Scrutiny Bulletin: 8 April 2024

Title of Update: RAMM Quarterly Highlights Report

Relevant Officers: Helen Hartstein, Audience Development Manager

Julien Parsons, Collections and Content Manager

Alison Hopper-Bishop, Conservation and Support Services Manager

Joseph Harvey, Operations Manager

Contact for general enquiries:

Jo Quinnell, Assistant Democratic Services Officer, Democratic Services, Room 4.36

Email: jo.quinnell@exeter.gov.uk. Tel: 01392 265197

1. What is the update about?

This is the quarterly highlights report for the Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery, showing museum activity for the period January to March 2024.

2. Background

The quarterly highlights report, along with other reports showing activity against targets, is taken to RAMM's Oversight Panel and reported to Arts Council England as part of its National Portfolio Organisation funding agreement. The oversight panel consists of six councillors and two external representatives.

3. Current position

Activity plan

Visitor Experience (Activity 1)

- This quarter RAMM continued its wellbeing offer with a 4-week mindfulness in partnership with Devon Recovery Learning Community. 12 participants were invited to explore different artefacts in the museum using mindfulness, to cultivate an awareness of their senses and breathing whilst learning to look at objects in a different way.
- RAMM's delivered two Friendly Fridays (with World Cultures store tour and printmaking activity), a History gallery visit for a football club social group, and a talk about Devon's cream teas (with scones) for over-50s dealing with anxiety and depression.

- The museum café vouchers scheme paused on a high, reaching around 131 in the final quarter (representing some 180 people, since most vouchers are used for two visitors). Use of this flexible tool was increasing, and RAMM hopes to restart it in the autumn, when mental health issues tend to soar.

Exhibitions and Events (Activity 2)

- In January, RAMM opened 'ARTIST ROOMS: Bill Viola'. The exhibition shows three works from the well-known *Passion* series by Viola, the internationally recognised pioneer of video art. The exhibition is part of the national programme managed by Tate and National Galleries of Scotland. RAMM is the first venue taking this curated selection of Viola's poignant work.
- At the end of January RAMM revealed the latest re-hang of its fine art collection. 'Pressing Images' tells the story of printmaking from medieval Europe through to the 21st century using RAMM's outstanding collection: from Albrecht Dürer to William Hogarth to Devon-born trailblazer Dorothea Wight and much more.
- Sold-out February half term activities included love-themed craft sessions, storytelling, and puppetry with global inspiration. African drumming appealed across generations, while roaming historic characters in costume engaged visitors in conversation. 460 visitors participated over the week.
- We ran a darning workshop with Molly Rooke from Darnit! and welcomed an intimate group of visitors to a short course on the impact of printmaking on the art world.
- A Murder Mystery evening took place at which 60 visitors discovered the culprit of The Grey Withers drama.

Digital (Activity 3)

- Following formal adoption by ECC in the last quarter, in February, RAMM publicly announced its Open Access policy and partnership with the GLAM-E lab at the University of Exeter. In 2024, RAMM will begin releasing selected digital assets from its collection to tie in with topical issues and anniversaries.
- RAMM configured Google Tag Manager and GA4 for RAMM's primary website (rammuseum.org.uk). RAMM is now able to track website traffic and engagement with greater granularity e.g., purchases. Starting in Q4 2023-24, RAMM will initiate detailed quarterly reporting on website performance.

Contemporary Art (Activity 4)

- On 21 February artist Ashanti Hare gave their first performance of 'River that never rests', a work inspired by the river Exe and Hare's research into Central African power bundles or minkisi. Hare's work, which was livestreamed, was supported by two other pieces of

contemporary dance in an evening of experimental performance at RAMM, attracting an audience of more than 100.

- From March to September Hare's filmed performance is being shown in the Courtyard gallery along with objects used in it along with objects from RAMM's collection.
- RAMM's contemporary art commissions continue to be shown at RAMM: 'The silver Wave' by Michelle Williams Gamaker and 'Janet Sainsbury: Points in a Constellation'.

Children and Young people (Activity 5)

- RAMM created partnerships with Youth Arts & Health Trust (YAHT) and Green Island Studios to plan and prepare resources for the launch of the Dartmoor Frame of Mind photography project in February 2024. This project is supporting 48 young people aged 12-18 who have referrals for mental health support. The participants are using photography to engage with the nature, wilderness and landscape of Dartmoor led by a photographic artist based on Dartmoor. The young people will create art which will go on display for over five months in a special exhibition in the Café at RAMM. The project kick-started at the end of February with a series of 6 weekly live group zoom tutorials lead by artis Jo Bradford and YAHT.
- 40 Exeter College Dance and Fashion and Textiles students aged 16 to 19 created and delivered a dance performance in RAMM's galleries in response to the Bill Viola exhibition. Dance students performed a series of beautifully choreographed solos wearing specially designed skirts made by the Fashion and Textiles students inspired by their visit to RAMM, culminating in a group performance in the Courtyard.
- 16 young people from the bereavement charity Balloons visited RAMM for their annual activity day. Their visit included a guided tour of the current 'Pressing Images' print making exhibition and a print making craft workshop inspired by the exhibition content.
- RAMM delivered a new series of craft workshops aimed at home educated families aged 5-11, inspired by the World Cultures collection, with great feedback.
- RAMM's Arts Award offer continues to be popular, with 39 young people completing their Discover Arts Award in the galleries using our two bespoke self-guided activity booklets.

Individual Creativity (Activity 6)

- We welcomed a weekly social group learning knitting in the museum café.
- RAMM created opportunities for older people to be creative, with dementia-friendly animation on a hospital ward; a dementia-friendly cream tea with choir and intergenerational craft activity.
- We launched a new collaboration with Tanglewood to develop craft activities appealing to men and boys.

Skills Development (Activity 7)

- Attended the Archaeology and Heritage Fair at the University of Exeter.
- The Youth Panel exhibition, Data-day life, opened in the RAMM Café. This exhibition explores how data from our daily lives can be creatively expressed in engaging and innovative ways across twelve individually designed banners. Visitors can see the creative presentation of a wide variety of data sets collected from the routines of Youth Panel members' daily lives. These range from mundane daily occurrences to emotive commentaries on personal challenges faced in light of medical conditions and disabilities.
- Four people have completed supported placements in Visitor Services roles.
- One student from the University of Exeter is completing a placement with Visitor Services. Nell's placement is for 300 hours.
- 9 people joined the Future Skills programme.
- One student from the University of Exeter started a 1 day a week placement with Contemporary Art.
- Three students from the University of Exeter completed a placement module for their MA Curation degree.
- Two people started an Access to Internship and will be assisting in the Dynamic Collections project.
- Three people have started a 1 day a week placement with the Collections team.

Dynamic Collections (Activity 8)

- Two students have started on placements to support both the digital and engagement strands of the Dynamic Collections project.
- External evaluators have been appointed and produced an evaluation strategy and framework for the project.
- Our first sessions with community groups from Hikmat were on 27 and 28 March, and a family focused session on 5 April (Easter hols). These are initial 'getting to know you' sessions to introduce them to the museum.
- The first community project will focus on the theme of Food, connected to RAMM's exhibition theme for March 2025. The project will explore the importance of food in connecting us to place and other people.

University collaboration (Creative Arc) (Activity 9)

- RAMM has been working with University of Exeter Data and Computer Sciences dept (academics and students), and Exeter Science Centre to deliver a series of community workshops on the theme of Transport. The comments and outputs from the workshop will be included in RAMM's exhibition on transport opening in June 2024. Topics explored include transport history of Exeter, people's views of transport in the city currently and their

vision for a positive transport future for Exeter. We have so far delivered 3 workshops with community groups (approx. 36 people) and will deliver one further session in April.

- People from Afghanistan, China, Libya, the Philippines and Singapore piloted activities around food and evocative, multisensory memories sparked by the Making History galleries and handling collections - in collaboration with Dynamic Collections.

Investment principles plan

Ambition & Quality

- A new Ambition & Quality Action Plan 2024-26 has been drafted and will be presented to the Oversight Panel on 16 April.
- As part of the A&Q Plan a new Ambition & Quality Staff Guide has been produced to help RAMM's team focus on progressing the organisation's ambitions derived from the Vision and Mission statements. The guide will be introduced to staff next quarter and will be regularly reviewed based on feedback.
- Three Impact & Insight toolkit evaluations have been carried out this quarter. We have used the I&I methodology on the Ancestral Voices cases in World Cultures; an evening of performance by commissioned contemporary artist Ashanti Hare; and a workshop for the Transport exhibition. Analysis of results are ongoing.

Inclusivity & Relevance

- Colleagues attended the 'Start to sign' course run by RNID and ongoing follow up sessions have been scheduled for team members to practice and keep up their skills.
- A new BSL introduction to the museum video has been produced.
- Engagement and Visitor Services staff collaborated with Bristol colleagues to devise and deliver training around RAMM's Meeting Place of Ideas - to refresh all teams' skills and confidence in tackling contentious histories with the public.

Environmental Responsibility

- 34 RAMM staff have to date signed up for Carbon Literacy training; 21 have already been trained.
- The Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme-funded heat pump scheme is now at control point two and detailed survey work is being carried out. Condition of the existing mechanical and electrical equipment pertaining to air handling units is currently being assessed.
- After six months of dynamic energy management and equipment troubleshooting across RAMM, the M&E consultant's first report was received in February, demonstrating an ongoing KWH saving for the first six month period equivalent to over £45,000. RAMM's building management system requires active monitoring and intervention to maintain performance and deliver this saving in future. Work is ongoing; consulting closely with

conservation staff, our consultant has identified additional measures that are expected to achieve further reductions in RAMM's overall energy consumption in the next year.

Dynamism

- Museum's management team attended an externally-facilitated workshop on the topic of co-leadership

4. Future position

n/a

5. Are there any other options?

n/a

6. Conclusion

RAMM continues to deliver a varied, inclusive and ambitious programme of activities to its audiences in the city and further afield.