

Decision Recording Form

Title	Loan of objects from the Ipswich Borough Council collections	Decision Maker	Asst. Director – Communities
Date of decision	10/09/2024	Source of authority	Constitution, Part 3, Section 5, para 10.8 (a)
Date of Publication			

Background and Reason for decision

This decision relates to one new loan request and two loan renewals for items in the Ipswich Borough Council Museum collections.

1. The Hold, Suffolk Archives (IPSMG.LO.2024.04)

This loan is for a temporary exhibition, *Crime and Punishment*, and relates to fourteen objects in the Ipswich Borough Council collections.

IPSMG:R.1934.219.A	Margaret Catchpole. c.1840, oil on canvas Richard Cobbold – on display
IPSMG:R.1909.6	The original gaol delivery order for Margaret Catchpole to appear at Bury to take her trial for Horse Stealing 11 Aug 1791
IPSMG:R.1941.26	Printed placard being so far the only known copy of the original (framed) reward notice for the capture of Margaret Catchpole, March 26, 1800
IPSMG:R.1941.26xxx	Original letter from Margaret Catchpole to Mrs Cobbold before M C sailed for Australia, May 25, 1801
IPSMG:R.1941.26xxx	Taxidermy, Lyre bird, purported to have been sent to Mrs Cobbold by Margaret Catchpole from Australia
IPSMG:HSM.2017.59	Iron double handcuffs with key.
IPSMG:HSM.2017.62	Beadle's staff from St Clement's Parish Ipswich.
IPSMG:HSM.2017.69	Rimfire Pocket knife pistol, produced by Unwin and Rodgers of Sheffield.
IPSMG:R.1923.41	Assize Court attendant's javelin.
IPSMG:R.1962.75.B	Box lock pocket percussion pistol.
IPSMG:R.1966.8	wooden parish constable's truncheon, painted with crown, initials "WR IV Grotton" and "1830" in gold.
IPSMG:HSM.2017.75	wooden ratchet rattle
IPSMG:R.1934.250	wooden gamekeeper's cudgel, the head carved in the shape of a clenched fist.
IPSMG:R.1946.41	iron life-preserver or flail

The exhibition is in its early planning stages, but will focus on themes such as transportation, the justice system and crime prevention.

A feature of the exhibition will be the story of Margaret Catchpole, a local woman who served the Cobbold family and was arrested for stealing a horse and escaping Ipswich Goal before being transported to Australia. The exhibition will highlight her experiences and bring together relevant items from a range of institutions to illustrate her journey.

The exhibition provides an opportunity to display Ipswich Museum objects, of which all but one are currently in store, whilst Ipswich Museum is under redevelopment and continue a mutually beneficial relationship with Suffolk Archives.

Consultation

Ipswich Museums Manager, Portfolio Holder for Planning & Museums, Friends of Ipswich Museums

Resulting note from the consultation – should the Hold change the exhibition dates, the Margaret Catchpole. c.1840, oil on canvas Richard Cobbold would not be released to loan before July 2025 due to prior commitments.

Loan commences: 13th October 2025

Loan ends: 23rd Jan 2026

Exhibition dates: 25 Oct 2025 – 18 Jan 2026

Decision: Approve

2. Colchester Castle Museum (IPSMG:LO.2022.4)

IPSMG:R.1895.22 – Wooden ducking chair, pre-1830 from the Old Customs House, Ipswich

Background

In 2022 Ipswich leant four items to Colchester Castle Museum for the temporary exhibition 'Wicked Spirits', developed in partnership with the Museum of Witchcraft and Magic at Boscastle in Cornwall. The exhibition was well received with over 3600 visitors (as part of the general visitor figures with Castle entry). Staff would like to continue to display IPSMG:R.1895.22 – Ducking chair in Colchester Castle Museum, continuing to tell its' story.

The chair was on display in Ipswich Museum and would go into storage if it returned to Ipswich whilst the Museum is closed for redevelopment.

The extension of the loan agreement for this object, therefore, provides an opportunity to promote Ipswich Museum's collection, particularly while Ipswich Museum is closed to the public for a major redevelopment, whilst increasing the public's knowledge, understanding and appreciation of social history.

Consultation

Ipswich Museums Manager, Portfolio Holder for Planning & Museums, Friends of Ipswich Museums

Loan commences: 30th June 2024

Loan ends: 30th June 2026

Decision: Approve

3. National Horse Racing Museum, Newmarket (LO.2015.02)

Background

The National Horse Racing Museum have requested the renewal of the loan of *The Hawking Party* by Jan Wyck, c. 1700, oil on canvas (IPSMG: R.1935.304). Displayed in the Packard Galleries, Palace House, the Hawking Party forms an integral part of the displays and is well received by visitors. Ipswich Museum staff have no current plans for use should it be returned.

The decision to approve this request is subject to updated environmental readings being sent for review by the Conservation Officer and confirmation that appropriate insurance is still in place.

Consultation

Ipswich Museums Manager, Portfolio Holder for Planning & Museums, Friends of Ipswich Museums

Decision:

Approve. The decision made is to agree the renewal of the loan of this painting. This loan provides an opportunity to promote Ipswich Museum's collection to a wider audience.

Conflict of interest		N/A		Relevant Portfolio(s)		Development and Museums	
ALL WARDS		Y		Use a Y in the table below to mark the wards affected if not all wards			
NW		NE		CENTRAL		SW	
Castle Hill		Bixley		Alexandra		Bridge	
Whitton		Rushmere		St Margaret's		Gipping	
Whitehouse		St John's		St John's		Sprites	
				Westgate		Stoke Park	
Once complete the Decision Maker must send this form and any background documentation for publication to Monitoring.officer@ipswich.gov.uk					Admin use only		