

**RECOMMENDATION FROM THE AUDIT AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE IN RESPECT OF THE CALLED-IN DECISION OF THE
COMMUNITY AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE MADE ON 13TH
JANUARY 2026 (ITEM 04) REGARDING THE OPTIONS FOR THE
FUTURE OF THE BOURNE HALL MUSEUM**

Head of Service:	Ian Dyer, Head of Operational Services
Report Author	Dan Clackson
Wards affected:	(All Wards);
Urgent Decision?(yes/no)	No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:	N/A
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1 – Report to the Community and Wellbeing Committee on 13th January 2026 (Agenda Item 04, “Options for the Future of the Museum”). Appendix 2 – Extract from the draft minutes of the 5 February 2026 A&S meeting, in relation to A&S’s consideration of Agenda Item 04, “Call-in of the Decision of the Community and Wellbeing Committee Made on 13th January 2026 (Item 04) Regarding the Options for the Future of Bourne Hall Museum”. Appendix 3 – Bourne Hall Service Review and recommendations (redacted) – to follow

Summary

This report invites the Community and Wellbeing Committee to consider the recommendation from the Audit and Scrutiny Committee (‘A&S’), made at A&S’s 5th February 2026 meeting with respect to the called-in decision of the Community and Wellbeing Committee (‘C&W’) made at C&W’s 13th January 2026 meeting in relation to Agenda Item 04, “Options for the Future of the Museum”.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

Either;

- (1) Accept the recommendation of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee to rescind/withdraw the decision made by the Community and Wellbeing Committee at its 13th January 2026 meeting in respect of Agenda Item 04, “Options for the Future of the Museum”, and**
- (2) Having considered the information provided within the Appendices to this report, agree the most appropriate course of action for the Bourne Hall Museum’s future as follows:**
 - a) Option 1: Do nothing and carry on with business as usual, or;**
 - b) Option 2: Invest in improvement of the Museum. (Should option 2 be agreed, a funding request will go to Strategy and Resources Committee March 2026 for consideration), or;**
 - c) Option 3: Close the Museum.**

Or;

- (3) Note the recommendation of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee made at its meeting held on 5th February 2026 and resolve to implement immediately the decision made by the Community and Wellbeing Committee at its 13th January 2026 meeting in respect of Agenda Item 04, “Options for the Future of the Museum”.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1** In accordance with Annex 4.6, section 14.4 of the Council’s Operating Framework, C&W must consider the recommendation from the Audit and Scrutiny Committee made at A&S’s 5th February 2026 meeting with respect to the called-in decision of the Community and Wellbeing Committee (‘C&W’) made at C&W’s 13th January 2026 meeting in relation to Agenda Item 04, “Options for the Future of the Museum”.

2 Background

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Meeting of the Community and Wellbeing Committee held on 13th January 2026

- 2.1 On 13th January 2026 the Community and Wellbeing Committee ('C&W') received the report, "Options for the Future of the Museum" (Agenda Item 04). The report asked C&W to consider potential proposals for Bourne Hall Museum.
- 2.2 The report's recommendation, as set out below, asked C&W to evaluate the available options and agree the most appropriate course of action for Bourne Hall museum's future:

"(1) Evaluate the available options and agree the most appropriate course of action for the museum's future:

- a) Option 1: Do nothing and carry on with business as usual or;*
- b) Option 2: Invest in improvement of the Museum (should option 2 be agreed a funding request will go to Strategy and Resources Committee March 2026 for consideration) or;*
- c) Option 3: Close the museum."*

- 2.3 Following C&W's consideration of the report, the Committee unanimously resolved to:

"Option 2: Invest in improvement of the Museum (should option 2 be agreed a funding request will go to Strategy and Resources Committee March 2026 for consideration)". In the event that Strategy and Resources Committee do not approve said funding request, instead do nothing and carry on with business as usual."

- 2.4 The report, along with all its appendices, for Agenda Item 04, "Options for the Future of the Museum", as laid before the Community and Wellbeing Committee at its 13th January 2026 meeting, has been provided at Appendix 1 to this report.

Call-in of the decision

- 2.5 Following the 13th January 2026 C&W meeting, the Council's Scrutiny Officer received a call-in request, submitted under Annex 4.6 paragraph 14.2.3 and in accordance with paragraph 14.2.4 of the Council's Operating Framework, in relation to C&W's decision made in respect of Agenda Item 04, "Options for the Future of the Museum". The call-in request reasoned that in making its decision, C&W had not had regard to certain relevant information as it was not brought to the attention of the Committee at the time.

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- 2.6 The call-in request was deemed valid by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee ('A&S') under Annex 4.6 paragraph 14.2.4. Accordingly, the decision made by C&W at its 13th January 2026 C&W meeting in respect of Agenda Item 04, "Options for the Future of the Museum", was reviewed by A&S at its 5th February 2026 meeting in accordance with the procedure set out under Annex 4.6 section 14.3.
- 2.7 During the course of debate, A&S considered that in coming to its decision, C&W had not had regard to certain relevant information, and that C&W's decision ought to be rescinded and then re-taken once the relevant information had been put before the Committee Members. The relevant information to which A&S Members referred was two documents, namely:
- [Epsom and Ewell Borough Council Culture Peer Challenge – Bourne Hall Museum – 4th-6th August 2025 Feedback Report](#)
 - Bourne Hall Museum Service Review and Recommendations.
- 2.8 The Council's Chief Executive – acting in her capacity as the Council's 'proper officer' for access to information to Members has considered the recommendation of A&S and has determined the following:
- 2.8.1 As the Culture Peer Challenge report is available on the Council's website, a link to it has been provided at section 8.1 (Other papers) of this report.
- 2.8.2 It is her considered view that The Service Review includes operational detail and workshop commentary which is not required for policy determination. Mindful of the A&S recommendation, a redacted version shall be appended to this report (to follow) limited to the relevant findings and implications necessary to help inform the Committee's decision between the available options.
- 2.9 Following A&S's review of the called-in decision, the Committee resolved (three for, two against and the Chair not voting):
- "That the called-in decision should be referred to the relevant policy committee with a view to its being withdrawn / rescinded and the decision being re-taken."*
- 2.10 An extract from the draft minutes of the 5th February 2026 A&S meeting, in relation to A&S's consideration of Agenda Item 04, "Call-in of the Decision of the Community and Wellbeing Committee Made on 13th January 2026 (Item 04) Regarding the Options for the Future of Bourne Hall Museum", has been provided at Appendix 2 to this report.

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3 Proposal

- 3.1 In accordance with Annex 4.6 section 14.4 of the Council's Operating Framework, C&W is now asked to have regard to the resolution made by A&S at its 5th February 2026 meeting, in relation to Agenda Item 04, "Call-in of the Decision of the Community and Wellbeing Committee Made on 13th January 2026 (Item 04) Regarding the Options for the Future of Bourne Hall Museum", and to consider whether or not to accept A&S's recommendation.
- 3.2 A&S's recommendation may be accepted or rejected as it has been presented and shall not be subject to amendment.
- 3.3 If C&W decides to implement the decision notwithstanding A&S's recommendation, C&W must state its reasons for doing so. These reasons will then be communicated to A&S. In this event, the decision made by the Community and Wellbeing Committee at its 13th January 2026 meeting in respect of Agenda Item 04, "Options for the Future of the Museum", would be implemented immediately.

4 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

- 4.1 Equality Impact Assessment
 - 4.1.1 None for the purposes of this report.
- 4.2 Crime & Disorder
 - 4.2.1 None for the purposes of this report.
- 4.3 Safeguarding
 - 4.3.1 None for the purposes of this report.
- 4.4 Dependencies
 - 4.4.1 None for the purposes of this report.
- 4.5 Other
 - 4.5.1 None for the purposes of this report.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 The financial implications in relation to the "Options for the Future of the Museum", are set out in the report presented to the Community and Wellbeing Committee at its 13th January 2026 meeting (Agenda Item 04), which has been attached at Appendix 1 to this report.
- 5.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** None for the purposes of this report.

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6 Legal Implications

- 6.1 The process for the consideration of recommendations from A&S by policy Committees is set out in Annex 4.6 of the Council's Operating Framework – Overview, Audit and Scrutiny (including Call in Procedure and Councillor Calls for Action).
- 6.2 The legal implications in relation to the “Options for the Future of the Museum”, are set out in the report presented to the Community and Wellbeing Committee at its 13th January 2026 meeting (Agenda Item 04), which has been attached at Appendix 1 to this report.
- 6.3 **Legal Officer's comments:** None arising from the content of this report.

7 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

- 7.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:
- N/A
- 7.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.
- 7.3 Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations: None for the purposes of this report.
- 7.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** None for the purposes of this report.
- 7.5 **Partnerships:** None for the purposes of this report.
- 7.6 **Local Government Reorganisation Implications:** None for the purposes of this report.

8 Background papers

- 8.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

- [Community and Wellbeing Committee, 13th January 2026, Agenda Item 04, “Options for the Future of the Museum”.](#)
- [Audit and Scrutiny Committee, 5th February 2026, Agenda Item 04, “Call-in of the Decision of the Community and Wellbeing Committee Made on 13th January 2026 \(Item 04\) Regarding the Options for the Future of Bourne Hall Museum”.](#)

Other papers:

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- [Annex 4.6 of the Council's Operating Framework – Overview, Audit and Scrutiny \(including Call in Procedure and Councillor Calls for Action\).](#)
- [Epsom and Ewell Borough Council Culture Peer Challenge – Bourne Hall Museum – 4th-6th August 2025 Feedback Report](#)