

ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE – 10 AUGUST 2026**REPORT FOR DECISION****APPLICATION TO ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND'S NATIONAL PORTFOLIO
ORGANISATION SCHEME – CORNWALL CONSORTIUM**

Our Culture	Our Decision Making	Our Environment	Our Money	Our People	Our Places	Our Resilience & Wellbeing
						
✓			✓		✓	

Recommendation:

1. The necessary work be undertaken, as part of a consortium of Cornish Museums, to develop an application to Arts Council England for National Portfolio Organisation funding for 2028-2033.
2. A further report be presented to this Committee, at its meeting scheduled to take place on 5 October 2026, regarding the progress of said application prior to its submission.

Background:

Penlee House has benefited from Arts Council England funding as part of a consortium of Cornish museums in various forms since Major Partner Museum funding began in 2015-2018. Relunched as National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) funding from 2018-22, the funding was extended for a further year, 2022-3. A successful application to the current round of funding (2023-2026) was extended for 2026-27 and will be extended for a further year, 2027-28. The application window for the new round of National Portfolio Organisation Funding opens in October, and it is intended to make an application as a consortium of Cornish museums once more.

Penlee House has benefitted greatly from this funding over the years (around £700,000 by the end of March 2028). It has raised the profile of Penlee House, enabled engagement with thousands of people, including over 12,000 school children/university students and has helped to transform the organisation. The intention of NPO funding is to allow organisations to fund their core costs associated with delivering excellent work, therefore, the match funding that has been provided to support this programming has come from core costs from within the Arts & Culture

annual budget. Additional match funding has been provided by the Friends of Penlee House and other small grants from trusts. Without NPO funding, activity in learning, engagement and exhibitions would be significantly reduced.

The new round of funding will be from April 2028 to March 2023. The intention is to once more apply as part of a consortium of Cornish museums. Arts Council England are expected to release full application guidance, including a steer on what level of funding an organisation/consortium could apply for, in September 2026. The application window will be from October 2026 to November 2026, with Arts Council England informing organisations of their decisions in June 2027.

It is recommended that the Committee approves Penlee House's involvement in the application process for the next round of funding and regular updates will be given to this Committee.

Anna Renton
Co-Director, Penlee House Gallery & Museum

Verity Anthony
Co-Director / Visitor Experience & Retail Manager, Penlee House Gallery & Museum

ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE – 10 AUGUST 2026**REPORT FOR DECISION****EXPENDITURE FROM THE PENLEE HOUSE PLANT FUND FOR PLANT
MAINTENANCE**

Our Culture	Our Decision Making	Our Environment	Our Money	Our People	Our Places	Our Resilience & Wellbeing
						
✓						✓

Recommendation:

The use of £8,998.00 from the Penlee House Plant Fund earmarked reserve (4995/1/7) be approved for the replacement of condenser coil within the chiller unit at Penlee House Gallery and Museum.

Background:

The plant which manages the air temperature and humidification at Penlee House dates in the main to 1997 and continues to deteriorate with areas needing repair and replacement. An annual maintenance contract is in place with MacWhirter Western Ltd who undertake monthly maintenance visits. There have already been a number of elements of the plant requiring repair this year which has required spend against the existing budget.

Officers have recently received a quote for the replacement of an essential element of the chiller unit, the condenser coil for £8,998.00. Therefore, it is recommended that expenditure of £8998.00 from the Penlee House Plant Fund earmarked reserve is approved to enable replacement of the part as per the quote received. This replacement is required to ensure the plant continues to operate correctly, ensuring the stability of the Council's own collections and those on loan to it from other institutions.

In the longer term, the plant specification will be reassessed and developed to ensure that it enables the replacement/refurbishment of all areas of the plant that are in need. It is hoped that this work could be done in conjunction with a wider environmental impact survey that looks at where environmental impacts can be improved across all areas of Penlee House.

Anna Renton
Co-Director, Penlee House Gallery & Museum

Verity Anthony
Co-Director / Visitor Experience & Retail Manager, Penlee House Gallery & Museum

ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE – 10 AUGUST 2026**REPORT FOR DECISION****EXPENDITURE FROM THE PENLEE HOUSE BUILDING FUND FOR BUILDING
CONDITION SURVEY AND REDECORATION COSTS**

Our Culture	Our Decision Making	Our Environment	Our Money	Our People	Our Places	Our Resilience & Wellbeing
						
✓						✓

Recommendation:

1. The use of up to £10,000 from the Penlee House Building Fund earmarked reserve (4995/1/2) be approved for internal building redecoration.
2. Subject to (1.) above, authority to be delegated to the Town Clerk to seek quotations and appoint contractor(s) to undertake said redecoration work.
3. The use of up to £4,000 from the Penlee House Building Fund earmarked reserve (4995/1/2) be approved to commission an updated buildings condition survey.
4. Subject to (3.) above, authority to be delegated to Town Clerk to seek quotations and appoint a contractor to undertake said survey.

Background:

The roof repair work tender is currently advertised and it is hoped that a suitable contractor will be appointed shortly. Once the roof is repaired, there are three areas requiring redecoration – the upstairs landing, the upstairs break area and shop ceiling. As Penlee House is closed for the refurbishment of the café and shop area in January, it is hoped that this work can take place at the same time. The closure also offers an opportunity to redecorate the gallery walls between shows. The estimated costs are based on the building condition report of 2022/3 with costs adjusted for inflation. A virement is requested to enable this work to take place.

A building condition report was carried out in 2022/3. An updated, costed report is required to enable officers to plan finances and workflow accordingly, as well as to

enable future applications to funders such as the Arts Council England MEND fund. It is hoped that this report will also inform the next steps with regards to the overall plant replacement/refurbishment.

Anna Renton
Co-Director, Penlee House Gallery & Museum

Verity Anthony
Co-Director / Visitor Experience & Retail Manager, Penlee House Gallery & Museum