

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> March 2002</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>South East Arts Fine Art Collection</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Director of Tourism and Leisure</b>
<b>Ward(s):</b>	All
<b>Purpose:</b>	To secure agreement of members to the transfer of the South east Arts fine Art Collection to Eastbourne Borough Council.
<b>Contact:</b>	Janet Mein. Head of Arts and Heritage Telephone 01323 415416 or internally on extension 5416.
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<b>That members agree to the transfer of the South East Arts Collection (as described in the main body of the report) to the ownership of Eastbourne Borough Council and instruct Officers to conclude an agreement to this effect.</b>

<b>1.0</b>	<b><u>Background</u></b>
1.1	In 1985 The South East Arts Association (SEAA) and Eastbourne Borough Council entered into a ten year agreement relative to the loan of the South East Arts Collection to the borough Council. At that time the collection comprised 112 pieces of work, principally low value prints and photographs.

1.2	<p>The collection was divided into two parts viz:-</p> <p>a) The collection shall mean (listed) works which are owned by the Association and listed in the catalogue entitled “South East Arts Collection 1985”.</p> <p>b) The “new collection” shall mean the works as (A) above and any other works so designated by the selection panel but which were acquired on or after the thirty first day of December 1984 and are owned by the Council but purchased with monies contributed by the Association and the Council.</p>
1.3	<p>The general heads of agreement were -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· SEAA agreed to loan the collection to the Council for exhibition and storage at the Towner Art Gallery and for loan and exhibition elsewhere.</li> <li>· The Council agreed to insure the Collection and to keep it in a proper manner.</li> <li>· SEAA retained the responsibility to pay for any necessary conservation work which was organised by the Council’s curator and mutually agreed from time to time.</li> <li>· Copyright in the collection was retained by SEAA.</li> <li>· New works purchased would be identified as being part of the (new) South East Arts Collection.</li> <li>· Works jointly purchased after 31 December 1984 were part of an annual artist award scheme which favoured major and ambitious one off works, which have a resulting higher value than the print and photography based South East Arts collection.</li> </ul>

1.4	In April 1996 the agreement with the South East Arts Board (SEAB)– the successor body to the South East Arts Association was renewed for a further period of 10 years on the same terms as before.
2.0	On 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2002 the South East Arts Board will cease to exist as a legal entity with the transfer of its staff and assets to the Arts Council under the reorganisation process currently in hand.
2.1	As part of the Organisational Change process SEAB undertook an options appraisal relative to the disposal of both the Fine Art and Craft Collections, the latter being held at Hove Museum, in its ownership. At its meeting of 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2001 the Board took the view that, subject to the agreement of the respective Councils, that their preferred option would be the transfer of the collections in their entirety to the host Councils.
2.2	<p>As part of the continuing process the Board are keen to secure a transfer agreement with Eastbourne Borough Council relative to the works in the collection known as the South East Arts Collection.</p> <p>The collection now comprises</p> <p>112 items – the South East Arts Collection, - principally low value items.</p> <p>81 items – the “new collection” – Joint purchase arrangement.</p> <p>Of the total collection of 193 items, 112 items are not already in the ownership of Eastbourne Borough Council and it is this element of the collection that is the subject of this report.</p>
2.3	Officers of SEAB were charged with entering into negotiations with the Councils to enable this course of action to take place. The item has, however been left in abeyance by SEAB until January 2002 when a letter relative to ownership of the collections from EBC to SEAB reactivated the process.
2.4	<p>At a meeting between EBC and SEAB officers on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2002 it was agreed that a report would be put to seek agreement on ownership of the collection which would enable negotiations and agreements be carried forward.</p> <p>SEAB propose that</p> <p>“ The elements of Collection not already in the ownership of the Council be transferred into ownership of Eastbourne Borough Council creating a single ownership for the body of works described as the South East Arts Collection.</p>

3.0	<b><u>Consultations</u></b>
3.1	SEAB Officers and Board.  EBC Head of Arts and Heritage and Curator (Visual Art)
4.0	<b><u>Implications Financial</u></b>
4.1	SEAB continues to recognise its responsibility for the care and conservation of the collections. Insurance and collection management arrangements will not change from the present position.
5.0	<b><u>Summary</u></b>
5.1	SEAB ceases to exist on 31.3.2002. In order to secure the continued unity of the South East Arts Fine Art collection it is proposed that those elements of the collection not already in the ownership of Eastbourne Borough Council be transferred to the Council with the conditions outlined in 2.3 above.
<b>Janet Mein</b>	
<b>Head of Arts and Heritage</b>	

**Background Papers:**

The Background Papers used in compiling this report were as follows:

1985 SEAB/EBC Agreement

1996 SEAB/EBC Agreement

Report to SEAB Board re Fine Art Collection 7<sup>th</sup> March 2001

Minutes SEAB Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> March 2001

RFO agreement

To inspect or obtain copies of background papers please refer to the contact officer listed above.