

## PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

**Subject:** Collection Items for Disposal  
**Committee:** Mount Edgumbe Joint Committee  
**Date:** 8 July 2016  
**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Jordan (Plymouth City Council)  
Councillor Mrs Duffin (Cornwall Council)  
**CMT Member:** Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place)  
Peter Marsh (Head of Commissioning and Asset Management)  
**Author:** Chris Burton (Park Manager)  
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**Ref:** MEJC/Gen  
**Key Decision:** No  
**Part:** I

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### **Purpose of the report:**

Storage of the collections at Mount Edgumbe is problematic as space is limited. The bulk of items not on display, largely furniture, are stored in the attic spaces. From February – May 2016, a review of the collections in the attic store was undertaken. This review has identified 10 items of furniture in the collections that are candidates for disposal.

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### **The Co-operative Council Corporate Plan 2013/14 -2016/17:**

This report links to delivering the priorities within the Councils Corporate Plan particularly with regard to providing value to communities.

### **Cornwall Council:**

Business Plan Immediate Priorities: Use of resources and performance management  
Environment, Planning and Economy Directorate Plan priorities:  
Creating a Green Cornwall  
Creating Better Places to Live  
Delivering Excellent Services

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### **Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land:**

N/A.

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### **Other Implications: e.g. Child Poverty, Community Safety, Health and Safety and Risk Management:**

N/A.

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### **Equality and Diversity:**

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken? No.

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**Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:**

To approve the disposal of items identified within the report.

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**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

To retain the the items would

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**Published work / information:**

None

**Background papers:**

Title	Part I	Part II	Exemption Paragraph Number						
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7

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**Sign off:**

Fin		Leg		Mon Off		HR		Assets		IT		Strat Proc	
Originating SMT Member													
Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the content of the report?													

**Mount Edgcumbe Joint Committee**  
**For consideration: collection items for disposal**

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**Context**

Storage of collections at Mount Edgcumbe is problematic as space is limited. The bulk of items not on display – largely furniture – are stored in the Attic spaces. From Feb- May 2016, a review of collections in the Attic Store was undertaken. This review has identified ten items of furniture in the collection that are candidates for disposal.


**Disposal**


The term disposal refers to a number of options including:


- Transfer to another organisation
- De-accessioning to a handling collection
- Destruction (if item is beyond repair.)


The review has followed the process in accordance with the Arts Council Disposal Toolkit and the Museums Association Code of Ethics [http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/media/uploads/pdf/Disposal\\_Toolkit.pdf](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/media/uploads/pdf/Disposal_Toolkit.pdf)


**The committee are asked to agree, and minute, the disposal of the following items for the reasons laid out.**

Number	Object	Brief Description
PLYMM FW131	Mirror	Late Victorian stained wood over-mantel mirror with triple plate, 37" wide
<p><b>Condition Report</b></p> <p>Poor state of repair. Broken cord, broken back board and loose glass.</p>		<p><b>Images</b></p> 
<p><b>Provenance</b></p> <p>This was purchased by the Mount Edgcumbe Joint Committee from the Edgcumbe Family in 1987.</p>		
<p><b>Manufacture, maker, date and design</b></p> <p>Triple plate glass mirror. Low quality dark stained wood and veneer. Late Victorian/ Edwardian style.</p>		
<p><b>Use of collections (research/ education/loan/display)</b></p> <p>The piece is not a very high quality example of its kind and would not be of interest for display because there are many other better examples in the collection. For the same reasons, it would not be of interest for loan or research purposes.</p>		
<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <p>Conservation of this mirror would be very expensive; as it is not unique or a particularly good example, funding to conserve it would be hard to come by and it is extremely low priority. The ability to use this mirror in research or display is almost non-existent and there are better examples in the collection. The chair was purchased in 1988 but was not subject to any tax incentives (such as Capital Transfer Tax.)</p> <p>Recommendation: <b>Disposal by sale, donation or destruction.</b></p>		
<p>Alison Cooper, Curator of Decorative Art. Plymouth City Museum &amp; Art Gallery. 13.5.2016</p>		

Number	Object	Brief Description
FW134 (base)	Tallboy (base)	Mid 18 century walnut and mahogany tallboy with chequered feather banding. Base
<p><b>Condition Report</b></p> <p>NB Drawer in Bay 1. Badly warped and damaged with losses. Covered in plaster from the ceiling, also mould damage.</p> <p>This is the base of a tall boy. The collection also has the veneered top section to this piece which, although having sustained some damage and loss of edging, is in much better condition than this piece</p>		<p><b>Images</b></p> 
<p><b>Provenance</b> Purchased by the Mount Edgcumbe Joint Committee in 1987.</p>		
<p><b>Manufacture, maker, date and design</b></p> <p>The tall boy was a classic piece of 18<sup>th</sup> Century furniture which was very popular. This part is the base for a taller cupboard. The inlaid veneers and escutcheons are typical of its time but are not particularly high quality of unusual.</p>		
<p><b>Use of collections (research/ education/loan/display)</b></p> <p>This item is unable to be displayed or loaned in its current form. Its features are not of significant interest for further research. The top of this tall boy will be retained and could satisfy any research interest.</p>		
<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <p>This base has been severely damaged and repair is unlikely or would be very costly. As it is not unique or a particularly good example, funding to conserve the base would be hard to come by and it is extremely low priority. Keeping it in its current condition will see it deteriorate further. The ability to use this piece in research or display is almost non-existent and does not fit in with house themes. The tallboy was purchased in 1988 but was not subject to any tax incentives (such as Capital Transfer Tax.)</p> <p>Recommendation: <b>Disposal by sale, donation or destruction.</b></p>		
<p>Alison Cooper, Curator of Decorative Art. Plymouth City Museum &amp; Art Gallery. 13.5.2016</p>		



Number	Object	Brief Description
PLYMM FW145	Fire screen	Oak two-fold fire screen
<b>Condition Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wooden frame of fire screen structurally sound.</li> <li>- Textile padding almost completely destroyed by moisture and sunlight.</li> <li>- Could be re-padded but the textile element is beyond repair.</li> <li>- Frame also shows signs of woodworm.</li> </ul>		<b>Images</b> 
<b>Provenance</b> Purchased by the Mount Edgumbe Joint Committee in 1987.		
<b>Manufacture, maker, date and design</b> Victorian carved firescreen. Typical of its style and not a particularly ornate example. The original silk covering would be of interest but has deteriorated beyond repair.		
<b>Use of collections (research/ education/loan/display)</b> <p>Could not be used in current state. Would require extensive conservation which would ultimately replace original fabric of item. Unlikely to be of use for display as does not fit current or planned future room settings. Other fire screens of better quality exist in the collection. Not of interest for research as not an exemplar of its style and no known provenance. Would not be of interest to loan to another venue.</p>		
<b>Recommendations:</b>		
<p>Repair of the fabric is not possible so the entire textile would have to be made a-new. This would replace entirely, an integral part of the historic item. The collection has other, better examples of firescreens.</p> <p>Recommendation: <b>Disposal via donation or destruction.</b></p>		
Alison Cooper, Curator of Decorative Art. Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery. 13.5.2016		


<b>Number</b>  PLYMM FW167	<b>Object</b>  Chair	<b>Brief Description</b>  Easy chair on turned beech legs
<b>Condition Report</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extremely dirty and worn/ torn upholstery.</li> <li>- Mould and moisture damage</li> <li>- Signs of woodworm on legs.</li> </ul>		<b>Images</b>  
<b>Provenance</b>  This was purchased by the Mount Edgcumbe Joint Committee from the Edgcumbe Family in 1988.		
<b>Manufacture, maker, date and design</b>  Mid 20 <sup>th</sup> Century. No unusual elements. Not a prime example of its kind.		
<b>Use of collections (research/ education/loan/display)</b> Unlikely to be of use for display as does not fit current or planned future room settings. Not of interest for research as not an exemplar of its style and no known provenance. Would not be of interest to loan to another venue.		
<b>Recommendations</b> Due to the type of damage sustained to this chair, it is likely that repair would be impossible or prohibitively expensive. As it is not a unique item or a particularly special example, the ability to use this chair in research or display is almost non-existent. The chair was purchased in 1988 but was not subject to any tax incentives (such as Capital Transfer Tax.)  Recommendation: <b>Disposal by sale, donation or destruction.</b>		
Alison Cooper, Curator of Decorative Art. Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery. 13.5.2016		


Number	Object	Brief Description
PLYMM FW186	Chair	Victorian upholstered armchair on baluster turned legs with brass caps
<p><b>Condition Report</b></p> <p>Extremely dirty and worn/ torn upholstery. Padded interior badly degrading. Mould and moisture damage</p>		<p><b>Images</b></p> 
<p><b>Provenance</b></p> <p>This was purchased by the Mount Edgumbe Joint Committee from the Edgumbe Family in 1988.</p>		
<p><b>Manufacture, maker, date and design</b></p> <p>20<sup>th</sup> Century. No unusual elements. Not a prime example of its kind.</p>		
<p><b>Use of collections (research/ education/loan/display)</b></p> <p>Unlikely to be of use for display as does not fit current or planned future room settings. Not of interest for research as not an exemplar of its style and no known provenance. Would not be of interest to loan to another venue. Would require expensive conservation treatment ahead of any display.</p>		
<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <p>Due to the type of damage sustained to this chair, treatment and reupholstering of this chair would be prohibitively expensive and would change the historic fabric of the item. As it is not unique or a particularly good example, funding to conserve the chair would be hard to come by and it is extremely low priority. Keeping the chair in current conditions will see it deteriorate further and potentially, affect other furniture nearby (in terms of passing on mould spore). The ability to use this chair in research or display is almost non-existent and does not fit in with house themes. The chair was purchased in 1988 but was not subject to any tax incentives (such as Capital Transfer Tax.)</p> <p>Recommendation: <b>Disposal by sale, donation or destruction.</b></p>		
<p>Alison Cooper, Curator of Decorative Art. Plymouth City Museum &amp; Art Gallery. 13.5.2016</p>		



Number	Object	Brief Description
PLYMM FW206  <b>Condition Report</b>  Foot (front right) is broken. The seat stretchers have been eaten through by woodworm, causing the seat to collapse. This damage has happened since 2008 when it was already being treated for woodworm. <div data-bbox="191 548 643 884" data-label="Image"> </div>	<b>Images</b>  <div data-bbox="829 453 1053 751" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="1068 285 1471 816" data-label="Image"> </div>	Oak-framed ladder back open armchair with rush seat
<b>Provenance</b> This was purchased by the Mount Edgcumbe Joint Committee from the Edgcumbe Family in 1988.		
<b>Manufacture, maker, date and design</b>  Unknown maker. Early 20 <sup>th</sup> Century. Very simple finish without turned elements, varnishing or elaborate carving. The feet and ends of the arms indicate a standard vernacular (or country) ladder-back chair style, the type of which were made in Lancashire and Cheshire in the 18th century. However, this is a 20 <sup>th</sup> Century version of.		
<b>Use of collections (research/ education/loan/display)</b> Could not be used if not repaired. Would not be displayed as not fitting of the house displays and there are better examples in the collection. Very unlikely to be of interest to loan.		
<b>Recommendations:</b>  Due to the type of damage sustained to this chair, it is likely that repair would be impossible or prohibitively expensive. As it is not a unique item or a particularly special example, the ability to use this chair in research or display is almost non-existent. The chair was purchased in 1988 but was not subject to any tax incentives (such as Capital Transfer Tax.)  Recommendation: <b>Disposal by sale, donation or destruction.</b>		
Alison Cooper, Curator of Decorative Art. Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery. 13.5.2016		

Number	Object	Brief Description
PLYMM FW225 + 226	Chairs	Two of four small wooden Windsor chairs
<p data-bbox="94 256 324 289"><b>Condition Report</b></p> <p data-bbox="94 331 444 365">Extremely bad woodworm.</p> <p data-bbox="94 407 610 441">FW225 has a broken top rail in 2 places.</p> 		<p data-bbox="824 256 922 289"><b>Images</b></p> 
<p data-bbox="94 919 250 953"><b>Provenance</b></p> <p data-bbox="94 995 1360 1029">This was purchased by the Mount Edgcumbe Joint Committee from the Edgcumbe Family in 1988.</p>		
<p data-bbox="94 1054 591 1087"><b>Manufacture, maker, date and design</b></p> <p data-bbox="94 1129 1484 1205">Late 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> Century Windsor chairs. Very common style and nothing unusual, rare or special about the make and manufacture of this pair.</p>		
<p data-bbox="94 1264 802 1297"><b>Use of collections (research/ education/loan/display)</b></p> <p data-bbox="94 1306 1445 1381">Not of interest for research as not unique examples, nor for education. Woodworm makes them beyond repair for display of loan.</p>		
<p data-bbox="94 1474 354 1507"><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <p data-bbox="94 1516 1510 1654">Due to the type of woodworm damage sustained to these chairs, repair would be impossible. As they are not unique or particularly special examples, the ability to use this chair in research or display is almost non-existent. The chair was purchased in 1988 but was not subject to any tax incentives (such as Capital Transfer Tax.)</p> <p data-bbox="94 1705 889 1738">Recommendation: <b>Disposal by sale, donation or destruction.</b></p>		
<p data-bbox="94 1780 1256 1814">Alison Cooper, Curator of Decorative Art. Plymouth City Museum &amp; Art Gallery. 16.4.2016</p>		

<b>Number</b>  PLYMM FW242	<b>Object</b>  Chair	<b>Brief Description</b>  Upholstered armchair on short tapered feet with castors
<b>Condition Report</b>  Extremely dirty and worn/ torn upholstery. Mould and moisture damage. Would require complete re-upholstery, thus taking away historic nature of item. The main seat cushion is missing as is part of braid trim.		<b>Images</b>  
<b>Provenance</b>  This was purchased by the Mount Edgcumbe Joint Committee from the Edgcumbe Family in 1988.		
<b>Manufacture, maker, date and design</b>  20 <sup>th</sup> Century. No unusual elements. Not a prime example of its kind.		
<b>Use of collections (research/ education/loan/display)</b>  Unlikely to be of use for display as does not fit current or planned future room settings. Not of interest for research as not an exemplar of its style and no known provenance. Would not be of interest to loan to another venue.		
<b>Recommendations:</b>  Due to the type of damage sustained to this chair, treatment and reupholstering of this chair would be prohibitively expensive and would change the historic fabric of the item. As it is not unique or a particularly good example, funding to conserve the chair would be hard to come by and it is extremely low priority. Keeping the chair in current conditions will see it deteriorate further and potentially, affect other furniture nearby (in terms of passing on mould spore). The ability to use this chair in research or display is almost non-existent and does not fit in with house themes. The chair was purchased in 1988 but was not subject to any tax incentives (such as Capital Transfer Tax.)  Recommendation: <b>Disposal by sale, donation or destruction.</b>		
Alison Cooper, Curator of Decorative Art. Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery. 16.4.2016		

Number	Object	Brief Description
<p>NN2</p>	<p>Washstand</p>	<p>Washstand with marble top.</p>
<p><b>Condition Report</b></p> <p>Front door is broken off hinges. Front left foot is also broken and missing. Evidence of mould. Evidence of woodworm on doors and base. Varnish badly worn.</p>		<p><b>Images</b></p> 
<p><b>Provenance</b></p> <p>Does not appear on any of the acquisition or valuer's list. Non-collection. Purchased or brought in as room setting.</p>		
<p><b>Manufacture, maker, date and design</b></p> <p>Victorian washstand with marble top and splash back. For domestic use. Not particularly rare or prime example of its kind.</p>		
<p><b>Use of collections (research/ education/loan/display)</b></p> <p>If conserved, could be displayed in one of bathrooms (at the expense of another item in the collection). Would not be of interest in current state for loan to other institution. Not by an identified maker and not a prime example of its type; better examples are held locally at Plymouth City Museum &amp; Art Gallery and at Elliot Terrace.</p>		
<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <p><b>Dispose by sale, transfer or destruction.</b></p>		
<p>Alison Cooper, Curator of Decorative Art. Plymouth City Museum &amp; Art Gallery. 16.4.2016</p>		