

Appendix F
Environmental Implications assessment

1. Name of activity:	<i>Acquisition of Unit 1, City Park, Letchworth to create a new Museum Collection Archive</i>				
2. Main purpose of activity:	<i>To establish a new fit for purpose archive through the purchase and refit of a local industrial warehouse unit.</i>				
3. List the information, data or evidence used in this assessment:	<i>Previous related committee reports, staff knowledge, location and nature of the proposed unit to be acquired.</i>				
Area of Potential Impact	Examples to Consider (non-exhaustive)	Neutral (X)	Negative (X)	Positive (X)	<p><i>Describe the contribution/impact on the area that the decision may have - assess whether this impact is a negative or positive or neutral one.</i></p> <p>Negative: What are the risks?</p> <p>Positive: What are the benefits?</p>
<p>1. Impact on greenhouse emission and support adaption to the effects of climate change</p>	<p>Will energy needs be met through renewable sources?</p> <p>Will it reduce emissions through retrofitting new technology?</p> <p>Will it reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing energy consumption and the need to travel?</p>		X	X	<p>Negative</p> <p>The current storage unit at Bury Mead Road has very little energy use, however this is only as a result of the unit not being ideally suited to the storage of museum artefacts. The refit of the unit in Letchworth will introduce greater environmental stability controls however some of this will introduce new demands for energy which do not currently exist at the current store.</p> <p>Positive</p>

					The proposed acquisition of the unit in Letchworth will involve a refit to introduce new environmental stability controls for the care of the collection. Whilst these will have new demands, it is anticipated that the refit will involve adding more insulation and utilising modern technologies such as the introduction of air source heat pumps and PV panels. By comparison the current store on Bury Mead Rd has a gas boiler.
2. Use of natural resources including water and energy	Will it reduce water consumption?		X	X	Negative
	Will it reduce energy consumption?				The increased accessibility of a new store will lead to more visitor throughput and therefore more use of water. There will also be greater energy consumption as the unit will be equipped with environmental stability controls and associated mechanical and electrical plant not currently in place at the existing store.
					Positive
		X			The new mechanical and electrical units should be highly energy efficient and we will seek to use greener methods such as air source heat pumps and PV panels to power this where possible with the aim of achieving an A+ EPC rating.
					Negative


<p>3. Minimisation of flood risks to the area (i.e. promotion of SUD's. protect surface and ground water quality)</p>	<p>Will it minimise flood risk from all sources of flooding?</p> <p>Will it reduce property damage due to storm events/ heavy rainfall by improving flood resistance and flood resilience?</p>				<p>We are not changing the building or run off areas. A moderate risk of surface water flooding was highlighted along the Works Road frontage in the pre-purchase report. Officers will be exploring whether any mitigation measures are required as part of the detailed building survey, Phase 1 Environmental Assessment and associated works.</p> <p>Positive</p> <p>We are not changing the building or run off areas. A moderate risk of surface water flooding was highlighted along the Works Road frontage in the pre-purchase report. Officers will be exploring whether any mitigation measures are required as part of the detailed building survey, Phase 1 Environmental Assessment and associated works.</p>
<p>4. To protect, enhance and create environments that encourage and support biodiversity</p>	<p>Will it protect, enhance and increase biodiversity and protect habitats?</p> <p>Will it improve access to and promote educational value of sites of biodiversity interest?</p>	<p>X</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>Negative</p> <p>We are not changing the building or surrounding areas.</p> <p>Positive</p> <p>We are not changing the building or surrounding areas, however it could be said that greater access to the museums collection, which documents the impact of climate change on biodiversity locally will improve public understanding of these issues, leading</p>

					to indirect benefits in behavioural changes and knowledge. The plot of land encompasses a small parcel of land which will be considered as part of a wider biodiversity analysis across the Councils wider property ownership.
<p><i>5. To improve Air Quality</i></p> <p><i>(air quality describes how polluted the air we breathe is)</i></p>	<p>Will it improve air quality?</p> <p>Will it reduce emissions of key pollutants?</p>		X	X	Negative
					It could be argued that the proximity of the new store to the museum, in addition to its greater potential for outreach, will result in more vehicular activity.
					Positive
					There is currently a gas boiler at the existing storage facility in Bury Mead road however it is proposed that the new store is powered through greener technologies.
<p><i>6. To reduce need to travel, the use of private motorised vehicular transport as well as encourage walking, cycling, and use of public transport</i></p>	<p>Will it encourage increased walking, cycling and use of public transport?</p> <p>Will it increase the proportion of journeys using modes other than a car?</p>		X		Negative
					Fit out contractors will need to transport the necessary materials to the site. In addition, the current store is visited very infrequently, whereas a new store would be intended to enhance outreach and engagement with the local community, who would need to travel to the facility. In addition, staff will need to travel to Letchworth from the museum.
					Positive

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<p><i>7. To reduce waste production and increase recycling, recovery and reuse of waste</i></p>	<p>Will it lead to reduced consumption of materials and resources?</p> <p>Will it reduce household waste?</p> <p>Will it reduce construction waste?</p> <p>Will it increase recovery recycling and re-use?</p>		X		Negative
					<p>The fit out works will result in waste generation from the bi products of the fit out materials introduced.</p> <p>There could be additional litter generated by increased visitors however it could be argued that they would only be generating the same amount of litter domestically had they not come to the new store. Consumption of food waste on site would also be minimised, given the risk of food and packaging in attracting pests.</p>
					Positive
<p><i>8. To enhance the public realm and street improvements</i></p>	<p>Will it reduce litter?</p> <p>Will it enhance the quality of public realm?</p>		X		Negative
					<p>There could be additional litter generated by increased visitors however it could be argued that they would only be generating the same amount of litter domestically had they not come to the new store. There will be no impact on the public realm other than facilitating</p>

				<p>the potential rejuvenation of the existing site at Burymead, though that is not the subject of this assessment it is a potential indirect benefit.</p> <p>Positive</p> <p>There will be no impact on the public realm other than facilitating the potential rejuvenation of the existing site at Burymead, though that is not the subject of this assessment it is a potential indirect benefit.</p>
<p><i>9. To protect, enhance and seek opportunities to increase open space</i></p>	<p>Will it improve open space?</p> <p>Will it improve landscape character?</p> <p>Will it minimise development on Greenfield sites?</p>	<p>X</p>		<p>Negative</p>
				<p>Positive</p>
<p><i>10. To reduce noise and impact of noise</i></p>	<p>Will it reduce noise pollution from vehicles?</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>Negative</p> <p>There will be additional vehicles during the fit out through contractors undertaking works, along with the public visiting in greater numbers.</p>
				<p>Positive</p>

6.0 Results			
	Yes	No	
Were positive impacts identified?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	See above.
Were negative impacts identified (what actions were taken)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	See above.
7.0 Consultation, decisions and actions			
Describe the decision on this activity (refer to section 3.2)			
The negative and positive impacts of this activity are likely to be similar no matter which ultimate solution for museum storage is arrived at and therefore the outcome of this assessment has not altered the intention over how to proceed.			
List all actions identified to address/mitigate negative impact or promote positive impact			
Action	Responsible person		Completion due date
Provide recycling bins and collections on site once operational. This will follow best practice in terms of recyclables and collection patterns.	Ros Allwood, Services Manager	Cultural	Mid 2026
Seek to encourage use of public transport to the store once operational within any marketing documentation.	Ros Allwood, Services Manager	Cultural	Mid 2026
Attempt to limit unnecessary vehicular transport by combining trips to and from the store by staff and collaborating with the wider team on the need for multiple trips.	Ros Allwood, Services Manager	Cultural	Mid 2026
Explore ways in which the use of modern green alternatives can be utilised to maximise the efficiency and EPC rating of the building.	Phil Doggett, Principal Estates Surveyor		Mid 2026
When, how and by whom will these actions be monitored?			
Rob Orchard, Culture and Facilities Service Manager to monitor museum actions. Michael Clark, Building & Facilities Manager and James Lees, Climate Change and Sustainability Project Manager to engage with Phil Doggett, Principal Estates Surveyor on efficiency measures.			
8.0 Signatures			
Assessor (report author):			
Name: Rob Orchard,	 Signature**		
Validated by (line manager):			
Name: Steve Crowley	 Signature**		
Forward to Policy & Strategy Team: corporatpolicy@north-herts.gov.uk			
Signature** Reuben Ayavoo			
Assessment date: 26/02/2025		Review date:26/02/2025	

**** Please type your name to allow forms to be sent electronically.**

A copy of this form should be forwarded to corporatepolicy@north-herts.gov.uk and a duplicate filed on the council's report system, alongside any report proposing a decision on policy or service change.