

The Decision by Cabinet on 12<sup>th</sup> September, Item 6: *“Disposal of Museum Artefact”*.

### *Reasons For Call-In*

1. The sale of the Sekhemka statue has been hurried through without careful consideration to other possible alternatives and financial implications.
2. The Cabinet report says the proceeds of sale of the statue would be ‘entirely reinvested in the town’s cultural and heritage priorities, including the restoration of Delapre Abbey’. Much more clarification needs to be given, as this statement is very vague.
3. There needs to be more consideration whether this sale is in breach of NBC’s own museums policy (Acquisitions and Disposal Policy, 2010). When Cabinet made this decision on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September the relevant sections of the Acquisition and Disposal Policy was not presented to members to help inform their decision. Therefore Cabinet may have made this decision with lack of sufficient evidence.
4. In addition, does Northampton Borough Council have legal documentation as to whether it actually owns this statue? The statue has been historically gifted and the report does not say whether any conditions of ownership were put in place. This should be investigated.
5. The Cabinet report says consultation is underway. The sale of the statue should only be considered once consultation has been completed. More consultation needs to be carried out with various stakeholders such as Friends of Northampton Museums and Art Gallery, tourist/heritage groups and local users of the Museums.

### Call-in Authors

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