

## Report of Finance Manager

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### **Subject: Replacement of an Essential Chiller Unit at the Oriel y Parc Gallery**

#### Purpose of Report

To seek endorsement for the use Contract Standing Order 16 in respect of the procurement of a replacement chiller unit at Oriel y Parc.

#### Background

The procurement of a replacement chiller unit at Oriel Y Parc is required as a matter of urgency. The chiller unit controls the atmospheric conditions in the gallery ceased to operate in early August 2023 and cannot be repaired. Typically, the units have an average life of around 15 years and this one was installed in 2005.

The Loan agreement with Amgueddfa Cymru stipulates the environmental conditions under which the loan items should be kept. Since the unit stopped working the Authority is trying to regulate levels with two industrial dehumidifiers. While the dehumidifiers are managing to sustain a stable environment regarding relative humidity, the changing weather conditions are affecting temperature with warm air emitted from the portable dehumidifiers. In sort without the chiller unit, we are unable to satisfactorily bring temperatures under control. The potential effects of this on the current exhibition are an increased risk of infestations taking hold of the natural history specimens and mould to grow on the artwork.

If we're unable to satisfactorily control temperature of the Galleries, within the agreed parameters of our loan agreement, this could result in a requirement to close the Gallery. Closure would result in disappointment for visitors, negative visitor feedback, negative PR and loss of income.

We were advised of a lead in time of 12 weeks from receipt of order and to avoid protracting this period any longer than necessary, a decision was made to suspend the normal procurement rules. The cost of the unit is circa £20k.

#### Financial considerations

The guidelines concerning the suspension of normal procurement regulation are in the Authority's standing order on major contracts. One of the exceptions permitting suspension states that contracts are required with such urgency as to not permit the invitation of tenders due to time constraints.

The standing order also states the 'authority to approve the use of Standing Order 16 rests with the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) and Chief Financial Officer only, with the justification for the decision being recorded and retained on the project file.

Further 'all approvals under these Standing Orders (16) shall be reported to the next NPA meeting for members' endorsement'.

Risk considerations

There are no risk considerations.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Members resolve to endorse the use contract standing order 16 in regard the procurement of a new chiller unit at the Oriel Y Parc Art Gallery..**

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