

**CABINET – THURSDAY, 13 JULY 2017**

**Written Question from Dr Jeremy Lockwood of the Friends of Dinosaur Isle Museum to Cllr John Hobart – Cabinet Member for Environment and Heritage**

**QUESTION**

*The staff at Dinosaur Isle Museum have recently been told that the Council intend to 'test the market' with a view to looking at the possible disposal of the museum. Obviously as the museum is the repository of one of the Island's most important collections both from a national heritage and scientific viewpoint this constitutes a major decision. There are significant implications for the long term regeneration prospects of the Bay area which in the view of many are pivotally linked to having an accredited museum at its core. Also we have heard concern from the many people who have donated fossils to the collection, often of great value and in some cases representing a lifetime's work. Universities and the Natural History Museum in London are also concerned about the potential loss to science and research. We have been told by some Council Officers that any proposal that involved the Museum losing its accreditation status would be a red line that could not be crossed. So that I can reassure the many concerned parties, would the Cabinet Member confirm that this is indeed the case?*

**RESPONSE**

*'The council fully understands and appreciates the concerns being expressed within this question and the important of the collection to the Island. We are seeking to achieve long term security for the Dinosaur Isle museum and I can confirm that any option for its future will need to include maintaining museum accreditation and security of the collection.'*