
JOINT ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Joint Archives Committee was held on 2 November 2005 at 10.30am.

PRESENT:

Councillors D Budd (MBC), A Cunningham (SBC), D Fitzpatrick (R&CBC)
and R Waller (HBC)

OFFICIALS:

G Jarritt (HBC), L Featherstone (SBC), C Blackburn (R&CBC), J Richardson (R&CBC), C
Arbuthnot (MBC), C Mellor (MBC) and D Tyrell (Teesside Archive Service)

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

ORDERED

In accordance with the devised rota, Chairmanship of the Committee transferred to the Member
representing Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council, Cllr D Fitzpatrick for the year 2005/06.

(COUNCILLOR FITZPATRICK IN THE CHAIR)

****APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were submitted on behalf of Councillor Hill (HBC)

****DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made by Members at this point of the meeting.

****MINUTES**

Due to an administrative error and following the adjournment of the meeting scheduled for 17
August 2005, the minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2005 were omitted and will be
submitted for consideration at the next meeting.

****EXCLUSION – PRESS – PUBLIC**

ORDERED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item only on
the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Paragraph 9
of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

DISPOSAL OF EXCHANGE BUILDINGS

The Director of Regeneration submitted an exempt report outlining a proposal to dispose of
Exchange Buildings, Exchange Square, Middlesbrough, which included details of the
implications for Teesside Archive Service and the financial implications of the disposal of a
custodian property.

Details were given of an offer to purchase the buildings and the implications for the Teesside
Archive Service and the storage of the Archives on a long-term basis.

RECOMMENDED

- 1. That in principal approval be given to the disposal of the Exchange Buildings to the North East Chamber of Commerce subject to the conditions/resolution of the issues outlined in the report.**

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2. That in principal approval be given to the proposals detailed in paragraphs 2.12 and 2.13 of the report to resolve the long term storage issues facing the Archive Service through the re-investment of the capital sum received, subject to detailed negotiations around the best use of the windfall to achieve Archive Service objectives.

REASONS

1. The recommendations would preserve the best interest of the Archive Service, estates/custodian property issue and regeneration objectives.

MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR 2005-2006

The Chief Librarian presented a report to update Members monitoring performance of the Archive Service for the year 2005/06.

It was noted that the number of visitors had increased by 6.9% over the first six months, with a total of 3008 visitors. This was in part due to the transfer of materials from Middlesbrough Central Library, and recent television programmes on family history.

A recent national survey of archive service set a target of 94% satisfaction level. In comparison, the local area survey achieved a 100% satisfaction rating.

The target of 20 lifelong learning events had already been reached. This target would be revised next year to be more challenging.

The report indicated that in order to increase both awareness of the service and outreach activity across the authorities, further Introduction to Archives sessions had been held for staff.

A variety of conservation work had been carried out on a number of archives in the last six months, in order to make them available for public research and a total of 591 items had been repaired and repackaged, examples of which were detailed in the report. It was noted that items in high demand or in a poor condition had been given priority depending on the amount of time needed to effect repairs rather than focussing on the individual authorities from which they originated.

NOTED

STAFFING FUNDING

The Chief Librarian stated that a Learning Access Officer had been appointed and that they would be commencing work on Monday 14 November.

It was also stated that the Archives Service had written to each of the local authorities to seek confirmation of the availability of funding for additional staff but as yet no written confirmation had been received. As a result the appointment of further staff had been held in abeyance.

In response to a query regarding the possible use of funding from the sale of the Exchange Building to provide additional funding for staff, it was clarified that such funding was a separate issue and would be capital receipt. Urgent funding for staff was required from revenue funding.

NOTED

CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Cunningham of Stockton Borough Council confirmed that he would pass details of further meeting dates to Councillor J O'Donnell who would be taking over his position on the Joint Archives Committee.

ORDERED

That the change of membership be noted.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

ORDERED

That the next meeting of the Joint Archives Committee be held on 11 January 2006 at 10.30am.