

JOINT ARCHIVES COMMITTEE REPORT

**PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR
April – June 2010**

22 July 2010

KEVIN PARKES - DIRECTOR, REGENERATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to update Members on the performance of Teesside Archives April – June 2010 and to give an update on the Action Plan.

BACKGROUND

2. The last inspection of Teesside Archives by the National Archives (TNA) was in 2008. In 2008 this inspection regime was supplemented by an annual self-assessment, scored by the TNA. As previously reported the service was scored as a three-star service (out of four) and is said to be neither improving nor deteriorating.
3. There are currently no statutory indicators or standards relating to archives services. A C.I.P.F.A return is required on an annual basis.
4. The range of work undertaken by Teesside Archives is varied, and includes conservation and outreach work. This report provides a summary of this work.

Visitors

5. The number of visitors to Teesside Archives during this period was 1578. A breakdown is shown in Appendix 1. The 416 visitors who were from outside the area came from such places as Switzerland, Australia and Canada.
6. Analysis of the visitor figures for the last two years is shown in Appendix 2.

Acquisitions

7. There were a total of 57 accessions of archive material during this period. They included: records from one of the oldest surviving firms in the area, Pickerings Lifts of Stockton, photographs of ships built by Smiths Dock at South Bank, title deeds relating to property in Seaton Carew and a cd relating to Sequah, a Victorian medicine man, in Middlesbrough.

Outreach

8. There have been a total of 30 events/talks/visits/displays over this period.

Events

Teesside Archives hosted two events as part of Local History Month in May. The first was a screening of films of local interest and the second was a local/family history fair. The two events combined attracted over 200 people and the fair was featured in the summer edition of "Middlesbrough News".

9. Talks and Group Visits

Teesside Archives organised a behind the scenes tour and explanation of the work of the department for presenters from BBC Radio Tees. There have been visits from several groups of students from the local adult education services who are being taught to trace their family trees using records available in the department.

10. Learning and Access

The Learning and Access staff have organised visits for school children from local schools to study topics such as World War Two, the Victorians, industrial heritage and workhouses. Loans of resource packs, for example on the topic of the seaside, have been made to schools which were unable to bring groups to Teesside Archives.

Conservation

11. Conservation has been carried out on a variety of archives in the last three months in order to make them available to the public for research. In total 174 items were repaired, cleaned and repackaged. This included detailed conservation work on the Loftus Tithe Map and school admission registers from Stockton and Hartlepool.
12. Some 3,576 records were treated in preservation projects such as the records of Pickerings Lifts of Stockton and documents relating to Middlesbrough Opera House.
13. Other duties and events have included: Carrying out paid conservation work for various institutions and members of the public; Assessing new collections as they come in, repackaging and shelving them; Supervising the moving into and out of the building of records of Teesside Magistrates' Court. Up to 10 hours a month were taken performing routine environmental monitoring and checking the condition of the whole archive building

Action Plan

14. The Action Plan put to the Committee on 23 July 2009 as part of the Review of Teesside Archives Report has been updated and further key actions added. This can be seen in Appendix 3.

OPTION APPRAISAL/RISK ASSESSMENT

15. Not applicable.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

16. There are no financial implications.

RECOMMENDATIONS

17. That members:
a) note the performance report for April – June 2010

BACKGROUND PAPERS

18. The following have informed this paper:
a) Performance statistics April – June 2010 Appendix 2.
b) Review of Teesside Archives Report (Action Plan) 23 July 2009

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