

JOINT ARCHIVES COMMITTEE REPORT

Heritage Lottery Fund - briefing note

22 July 2010

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PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To inform Members on discussions with Heritage Lottery Fund with regards bids for future funds to develop the Teesside Archive Service.

BACKGROUND

2. The Teesside Archives Service has been in its present location since 1982. The building at Exchange House has not had any major refurbishment work undertaken during this period.
3. The British Steel Collection (BSC) is housed in the Archives building, with the current cataloguing and conservation work ending in December 2010.

REASONS

4. The mothballing of the blast furnace at Corus and steel production on Teesside ceasing will have a direct impact on the communities and industrial heritage of the Tees Valley.
5. The work on the BSC is still progressing, but this has an even more important role to play in the cultural heritage of the Tees Valley.
6. The possibility of using the BSC as a platform to develop the Teesside Archive Service.

PROPOSAL

7. An informal discussion was held with Heritage Lottery Fund in June to explore funding opportunities for Teesside Archives. Interest was expressed in a project bid which would help to build on the work currently being done on the BSC as well as develop the Teesside Archive Service within the Tees Valley and beyond.

8. The suggestion is to prepare a smaller project bid to expand on the work currently being undertaken within the Archives, on cataloguing and conserving their collections, including the BSC.
9. Alongside this the proposal is to prepare a larger Tees Valley wide bid, in collaboration with partners to develop the Archives Services and its collections and make them more accessible both nationally and internationally. The aim is to ensure that the heritage which the Archives Service is responsible for preserving is accessible to as wide an audience as possible.

OPTION APPRAISAL/RISK ASSESSMENT

10. Not applicable

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11. There are no financial implications

RECOMMENDATIONS

12. That members note and support the proposals.

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