

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Joint Archives Committee Report –Performance update

Kevin Parkes, Director, Regeneration

26th January 2012

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to update Members on the performance of Teesside Archives October - December 2011.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That members note the performance of the Teesside Archives Service.

IF THIS IS A KEY DECISION WHICH KEY DECISION TEST APPLIES?

3. It is over the financial threshold (£150,000)

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It has a significant impact on 2 or more wards

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Non Key

X

DECISION IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE

4. For the purposes of the scrutiny call in procedure this report is

Non-urgent	<table border="1" data-bbox="655 1202 705 1252"><tr><td>X</td></tr></table>	X
X		
Urgent report	<table border="1" data-bbox="655 1252 705 1279"><tr><td></td></tr></table>	

If urgent please give full reasons

SUMMARY INFORMATION MUST BE RESTRICTED TO THIS PAGE ONLY

BACKGROUND AND EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

5. The range of work undertaken by Teesside Archives is varied, and includes conservation and outreach work. This report provides a summary of this work.

PERFORMANCE

Visitors and document issues

6. The number of visitors to Teesside Archives during this period was 1528. A breakdown is provided (see appendix 1). 2,508 documents were issued. The service is on course to increase visitor numbers by 10%.

Acquisitions

7. A total of 21 accessions were received, including some interesting volumes relating to accidents in mines and quarries and some non-conformist church records.

Outreach

8. The programme of workshops for schools, to mark the centenary of the Transporter Bridge have continued in conjunction with staff at the Dorman Museum.
9. An Archives Awareness event took place in November at Stockton Library and was well received by those that attended. This event was supported by the Dorman Museum and Tees Archaeology who both supplied speakers. An additional volunteer speaker also attended. The event was arranged in conjunction with Stockton, Hartlepool and Middlesbrough.
10. The service has continued to arrange talks and tours and has worked in partnership with Mima and the 'Healthy Stepping Out' group who have been to visit the archives and view the research undertaken on Ayresome Gardens as well as touring the gardens with local historian Steve Waller. This project received positive coverage in the press.
11. The service is investigating new ways of reaching a different audience by using social networking sites such as Historypin.

Conservation

12. In total 119 items were given conservation treatments.
13. Work included conservation work on a series of information posters dealing with cholera and typhoid outbreaks, the appointment of an organist for the Town Hall in the Middlesbrough area and various church records from different boroughs.
14. 1069 records were treated in preservation projects. The condition of these collections was noted so that any future conservation required could be prioritised.
15. Other work included:-
 - Carrying out paid conservation work for various institutions and members of the public.
 - Delivering training sessions for new volunteers on safe handling of records and collection care and working with collection care volunteers.
 - Giving talks and demonstrations to groups.
 - Work on updating the Location Index for the Archives.

- Giving advice to several members of the public and institutions including giving advice to the Archivist at Teesside University.

Volunteers

16. Work is progressing well and 9 new volunteers were recruited and trained making a total of 31. The service is reaching its capacity to house and supervise new volunteers but good progress continues to be made in all areas.
17. Teesside University are funding a graduate intern to work for 12 weeks starting in January who will work on cataloguing the papers of Mo Mowlam.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IA)

18. Not applicable.

OPTION APPRAISAL/RISK ASSESSMENT

19. Not applicable

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS

20. There are no financial, legal or ward implications.

RECOMENDATIONS

21. For members to note the performance report.

REASONS

22. To acknowledge quarter 3 performance.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

13. No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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