

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Joint Archives Committee Report – Performance update report

Kevin Parkes, Director, Regeneration

26th April 2012

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to update Members on the performance of Teesside Archives January-March 2012.

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)
It has a significant impact on 2 or more wards
Non Key

DECISION IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE

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

Non-urgent
Urgent report

If urgent please give full reasons

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 1345. A breakdown is provided (see appendix 1) and 4,462 documents were issued. The Committee should note that there has been an increase in visitor numbers from 5788 in 2010/11 to 6818 in 2011/12 and a marked increase in the issue of original documents to 11,559 compared to 10,622 the previous year.

Acquisitions

7. There were a total of 24 accessions received including some new material relating to Smith's Dock, St. Chad's Church and a deposit from the Saltburn Photographic Society.

Outreach

8. The service is investigating new ways of reaching a different and wider audience by using social networking sites such as Historypin.

Conservation

9. In total 117 items from one of the four Boroughs were given conservation treatments.
10. Work included conservation work on the original building plans for The Globe Theatre Stockton, an election poster from the Mo Mowlam collection, fashion catalogues from the Pennyman family collection for an exhibition at Ormesby Hall and two early cheques from Stokesley Commercial Bank 1798.
11. 2,557 records were treated in preservation projects. Other large collections that were dealt with were Village Arts and Teesside Coroners records.
12. Other work included :-
 - Fifteen talks/demonstrations to groups (seven of which were for children and college students).
 - One day training and advice given to the Conservation Intern currently at North Yorkshire Record Office.
 - Giving handling/collection care training to the Teesside University Intern.
 - Giving advice to several members of the public and institutions including Hartlepool Reference Library, Preston Hall Museum and Egglecliffe Parish Council.

Digitisation of parish records

13. The Yorkshire Digitisation Consortium has reached an agreement to digitise the Church of England Parish Registers with Find My Past. Work will commence once the contracts have been agreed by legal services and will take 18 months to complete. The service does not hold the original Church of England records for County Durham but the Archive Service there is investigating methods of getting their records on-line. The archive services that cover County Durham and Northumberland are now working together to try and reach an agreement to put

nonconformist and Roman Catholic registers on-line with either Find My Past or Ancestry.

Volunteers

14. Work is progressing well and a new volunteer training session is planned. The service will work in conjunction with the National Trust volunteers from Ormesby Hall to catalogue unlisted Pennyman papers. The intern from Teesside University finished her placement and the catalogue of Mo Mowlam's papers is complete. She is staying as a volunteer.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IA)

15. Not applicable

OPTION APPRAISAL/RISK ASSESSMENT

16. Not applicable

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS

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

RECOMENDATIONS

18. For members to note the report

REASONS

19. To acknowledge quarter 4 performance

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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