

**MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL**

<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Regeneration
<b>Relevant Executive Member:</b>	Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture
<b>Submitted to:</b>	Joint Archives Committee
<b>Date:</b>	8 October 2025
<b>Title:</b>	Executive Report
<b>Report for:</b>	Information
<b>Status:</b>	Public
<b>Council Plan priority:</b>	Delivering Best Value
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Why:</b>	Decision does not reach the threshold to be a key decision
<b>Subject to call in?</b>	For endorsement
<b>Why:</b>	To enable the service to deliver its core function
<b>Proposed decision(s)</b>	
That JAC notes the content of the report	
<b>Executive summary</b>	
The report highlights key areas of the activity of the Archive Service.	

## 1. Purpose of this report and its contribution to the achievement of the Council Plan ambitions

1.1 To provide an update on activity within Teesside Archives to the Joint Archives Committee.

<b>Our ambitions</b>	<b>Summary of how this report will support delivery of these ambitions and the underpinning aims</b>
<b>A successful and ambitious town</b>	<i>Aims within this ambition are to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- attract and grow businesses to increase employment opportunities</li> <li>- Improve attainment in education and skills</li> <li>- Ensure housing provision meets local demand</li> </ul>
<b>A healthy Place</b>	<i>Aims within this ambition are to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- improve life chances of our residents by responding to health inequalities</li> <li>- protect and improve our environment</li> <li>- promote inclusivity for all</li> <li>- reduce poverty</li> </ul>
<b>Safe and resilient communities</b>	<i>Aims within this ambition are to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- support adults to be independent for longer</li> <li>- improve transport and digital connectivity</li> <li>- promote new ideas and community initiatives</li> <li>- reduce crime and anti-social behaviour</li> </ul>
<b>Delivering best value</b>	<i>Aims within this ambition are to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ensure robust and effective corporate governance</li> <li>- set a balanced revenue budget and Medium Term Financial Plan to restore financial resilience and sustainability</li> </ul>

## 2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Committee notes the report

## 3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

N/A

## 4. Background and relevant information

### 4.1 Collections

The service continues to take in new material and some highlights include the records of one of the directors of the Haverton Hill shipyard, a box of lantern slides that show the construction the extension to Middlesbrough Dock in the 1890s. The images in this collection do not appear in any of the literature or any collections we can locate and are a great find.

The Archives Manager is working on a Lottery funded project with the Tees Women Poets that seeks to collect memories relating to the women's movement from the 1980s and that has resulted in the acquisition of some interesting material including the Cleveland Group and its involvement in the Greenham Common peace campaign.

A full list of deposits received in this reporting period is included in Appendix 1.

The Conservator has taken on some private work to help generate income and has been working on the backlog of material as well as working on recent deposits. We have received, and worked on, a large amount of photographic material recently. The Conservator has been a great support to the Archives Manager over recent months whilst the Archivist is on maternity leave.

## 4.2 Community Outreach

The Community Engagement Officer has worked hard to address the imbalance of activity in Hartlepool and this is reflected in the figures. A separate proposal on her future work has been presented to Heads of Service and is contained within the Interim Proposals paper.

Appendix 2 provides full details of the outreach sessions held between 1 February – 26 September 2025. Figures are summarised below.

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>No. of People</b>	<b>% of total people</b>
Hartlepool	201	16%
Middlesbrough	499	39%
Redcar & Cleveland	200	16%
Stockton	143	11%
Tees Valley	169	13%
Other	56	4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,268</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 4.3 Public Access & General Operations

Teesside Archives closed for 2-weeks during the quieter period in the summer to work on the cataloguing backlog, including plans and photographs that had been in Middlesbrough Town Hall.

The service has managed operations well during this reporting period, despite reduced level of staffing due to the Archivist being on maternity leave.

Visits to the Archives Service and details of enquiries and document issues are detailed below.

In person visits to the Archives from February - September 2025

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>No. of Visitors</b>	<b>% of total</b>
Hartlepool	41	5%
Middlesbrough	440	54%
Redcar & Cleveland	111	14%
Stockton	112	14%
Other UK	104	13%
Rest of the world	6	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>100%</b>

Total number of document issues (Feb – Sep 25): 3,139

Total number of enquiries (Feb – Sep 25): 1,884

Total number of volunteer hours (Feb – Sep 25): Circa 3,000

We are still awaiting the publication of the Heritage Feasibility Study and an agreed way forward, which makes it difficult to plan longer-term for the service. We are also awaiting a decision from the JAC regarding how to move forward with born digital records. The National Archives are waiting for an update on these issues before deciding if we can

## **5. Ward Member Engagement if relevant and appropriate**

N/A

## **6. Potential alternative(s) and why these have not been recommended**

N/A

## **7. Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Impact</b>
Financial (including procurement and Social Value)	N/A
Legal	N/A
Risk	N/A
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty	N/A

and Community Cohesion	
Reducing Poverty	N/A
Climate Change / Environmental	N/A
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	N/A
Data Protection	N/A

### **Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)**

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline

### **Appendices**

1	Deposits (Feb – Sep 25)
2	Engagement Statistics (Feb – Sep 25)

### **Background papers**

N/A

**Contact:** Ruth Hobbins

**Email:** ruth\_hobbins@middlesbrough.gov.uk