

## **Derby Museums - Annual Review of Derby Museums Trust**

### **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The Regeneration and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Board requested an Annual Review from Derby Museums Trust. This report provides a summary of the key achievements over the period April 2013 – June 2014 and also refers to some future developments.
- 1.2 In the 2012-15 Business Plan the Museum Trust outlined its five principle aims, which are summarised below. By the end of 2014-15 all of these aims will have been achieved.
- Establish Derby Museums Trust as a new, independent cultural organisation, based on ambition, entrepreneurialism, resilience and strategic relevance to local, national and international partners.
  - Instigate a plan for the overall re-development of the Silk Mill as a major visitor attraction
  - Begin an affordable rolling redevelopment programme for Derby Museums and Art Gallery
  - Ensure community engagement is embedded in all aspect of Derby Museums' work
  - Build a partnership to support the establishment of an international Joseph Wright Institute
- 1.3 Derby Museums became an independent trust in 2012 and has achieved a number of key successes in its first two years of trading. These are summarised in paragraph 4.1 of the report and are having positive impacts on people's lives.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To note the significant progress that has been made by Derby Museum Trust in the period from April 2013 – June 2014 and some of the future developments.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 To enable the Board to be aware of the progress that has been made in Derby Museums and some of the future developments.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 4.1 Derby Museums became an independent trust in 2012 and has achieved a number of key successes in its first two years of trading. Genuinely pioneering work has taken place which is expanding the perceptions of what a museum is and how this impacts on people's lives.
- The ground floor of Derby Silk Mill has been refurbished and opened to the public for the first time since 2011
  - The exceptional Remake project was launched, a unique co-produced programme to develop citizen curators via communities of makers and hackers. This will inform the future content development of the Silk Mill.
  - A major restructure was undertaken to ensure organisational and financial resilience.
  - A successful Major Partner Museum (MPM) application to Arts Council England (ACE) in partnership with Nottingham City Museums and Galleries. This provides a three year funding agreement of nearly £400,000 p.a. for three years during 2015-18. However although the status of becoming an ACE MPM is a great vote of confidence in Derby Museums by ACE, the level of funding in real terms represents, in common with other MPM museums, a 20% cut to the level of funding that Derby Museums currently receives from ACE Strategic funds.
  - A successful bid to DCMS Wolfson for £120,000 which will refurbish two museum galleries and create new Natural History displays by March 2015.
  - The opening of the Joseph Wright Institute in Derby Museum and Art Gallery, a study centre which means virtually all the artist's work we hold is accessible to the public.
  - The exhibition *Joseph Wright - Bath and Beyond*. The first Wright related temporary exhibition for 17 years
  - The opening of The Derby Museum Coffee House, a new café situated in the Derby Porcelain gallery, Finalist for best café in Marketing Derby Food and Drink awards in October.
  - Improvements to Pickford's House including the refurbishment of four display rooms, including the Views of the City room and a Children's activity room.
  - The best visitor figures for four years.
  - Derby Maker Faire successfully held in October 2015 with over 2500 visitors and the Bloodhound Super Sonic Car sponsored by Rolls Royce creating lots of interest.
  - As part of Super Connected Cities programme Derby Museum and Art Gallery and the Silk Mill now have the fastest public Wi-Fi in any museum in the UK.
  - HLF bid for Derby Silk Mill – Museum of Making- Inspired by the makers of the past, made by the makers of today, empowering the makers of the future submitted end of November. £16.5m redevelopment project with £3m annual economic impact for the city.
  - For the first time at least one school group booked in every day throughout November for paid activities at Derby Museum sites.
  - The 'Curious Contraptions of Heath Robinson' exhibition at Museum and Art Gallery 29 Nov until 1 March with linked activity programme at all Museum sites.
  - Collaboration with Quad in planning for Format 15
  - Increasing the use of Museum buildings as venues to be hired for a wide range of events and activities that are now starting to bring income.

- 4.2 Derby Museums have achieved all the above whilst undergoing significant organisation change and restructure, including three different Executive Directors over the two year period. The new structure has created an organisation that is lean, efficient and fit for purpose. The new commercial income streams that have been developed are starting to become profitable.
- 4.3 The Board of Trustees continues to provide firm governance of the Trust. It has members of high calibre including representatives of the main parties, The Duke of Devonshire, Jacqui Sutton a senior executive at Rolls Royce and Philip Plowden the Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University of Derby. The board is led by Chairman Peter Smith of Smith Partnership and Vice Chair Pat Coleman.

## OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 The Board of Trustees continues to provide firm governance of the Trust. It has members of high calibre including representatives of the main parties, The Duke of Devonshire, Jacqui Sutton a senior executive at Rolls Royce and Philip Plowden the Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University of Derby. The board is led by Chairman Peter Smith of Smith Partnership

**This report has been approved by the following officers:**

<b>Legal officer</b> <b>Financial officer</b> <b>Human Resources officer</b> <b>Estates/Property officer</b> <b>Service Director(s)</b> <b>Other(s)</b>	Claire Davenport, Director of Leisure and Culture
<b>For more information contact:</b> <b>Background papers:</b> <b>List of appendices:</b>	Tony Butler 01332 6419017 TonyB@derbymuseums.org None Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Annual Report

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial and Value for Money**

- 1.1 The financial performance for 13/14 of the Museum Trust can be found in section 6 of the Annual Report in Appendix 2.

**Legal**

- 2.1 None arising directly from this report.

**Personnel**

- 3.1 None arising directly from this report

**IT**

- 4.1 None arising directly from this report

**Equalities Impact**

- 5.1 The programming at the Museums continues to include activities for a broad range of community users.

**Health and Safety**

- 6.1 None arising directly from this report.

**Environmental Sustainability**

- 7.1 None arising directly from this report.

**Property and Asset Management**

- 8.1 Under the terms of various lease/licence agreements the Derby Museums Trust occupies three Museums sites, Derby Museums and Art Gallery, The Silk Mill and Pickford's House. In addition they occupy/use five other properties which house the Derby City Council's museum collection.

Under the terms of the agreement with the Trust Derby City Council although responsible for the costs of maintaining but not improving the fabric of these facilities, does retain significant repairing liabilities on these properties. The

condition of the respective properties; their future fitness for purpose and the agreed reduction in the Council's building maintenance budget may materially affect the future operation of the service.

## **Risk Management**

9.1 None directly arising from this report.

## **Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

10.1 The Council Plan objectives met by Derby Museums are; a thriving sustainable economy; good health and well-being; a strong community and an active cultural life.