

Members Interest
N/A

Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Joint Archive Committee 21 December 2017

Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Archive Service: Staffordshire History Centre Proposed Development Trust

Recommendation(s)

1. That the Committee approves proposals to create a development trust for the Staffordshire History Centre.

Report of Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities (Staffordshire County Council) and Director of Housing and Community Services (Stoke on Trent City Council)

Reasons for Recommendations

Background

Active Partnership

2. The round 1 Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) submission included proposals to investigate Active Partnership, which is a model of working with partners, Friends groups and stakeholders to deliver the activities of the Staffordshire History Centre Project. Part of these proposals included investigation of a Development Trust for the History Centre.

3. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) project will create a centre of excellence to house the current Staffordshire archive and heritage collections and bring in the Lichfield Diocesan Records and the collections of The William Salt Library. In addition, the HLF project will create a programme of activity to increase the use of the Staffordshire History Centre by many more people and to promote a wider appreciation and engagement with the collections for communities and individuals throughout the county.

4. The financial situation, now and in the foreseeable future, indicates the difficulty of sustaining that work beyond the timescale of the HLF project. The development trust could be a vehicle for raising funds to ensure that this valuable work continues beyond 2021.

Proposals for a development trust

5. The proposals in Appendix 2 set out how the development trust could work. It highlights the key partners who could be involved including: the Joint Archives Committee (Staffordshire County Council and Stoke on Trent City Council), William Salt Library Trust, Keele University and potentially the Diocese of Lichfield. The

William Salt Library Trust and Keele University have both indicated their interest in being part of the Development Trust.

6. The proposals make clear that the Development Trust would not manage the History Centre, Archive Service or the William Salt Library. Each partner would retain their independence but come together to fundraise for specific projects and specifically continue the activities after HLF funding ceases in 2022.

7. The proposals suggest creating a Charity Incorporated Organisation (CIO) as the most appropriate model for fundraising. This model would involve recruiting trustees to represent the partners as well trustees with specific skills to help fundraise for the History Centre. The CIO would benefit from charitable status and be able to apply for grants from other charities to continue supporting the work of the History Centre.

Existing Friends groups

8. The Archive Service and the William Salt Library both have Friends groups who fundraise for the services. They do this through membership subscriptions and social events. They also offer feedback to the service and promote events and the work of the two organisations. Their fundraising has been invaluable and has supported the purchase of equipment, books and archives. Both groups are also committed to fundraising for the Staffordshire History Centre. It is envisaged that they would continue this work to complement the Development Trust.

Next steps

9. The Joint Archives Committee, both Staffordshire County Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council, are being asked for its views at this initial stage, prior to formal agreement on the purposes and governance of the new development trust.

10. Legal services from both councils and the key partners would be consulted to ensure the proposals were acceptable and within the terms of the Joint Agreement.

Appendix 1

Equalities implications:

The National Archives, stakeholders, partners and staff have been involved in development of the project.

Legal implications:

The Staffordshire History Centre will deliver archive services under the terms of the Joint Agreement which is reviewed and amended as required by both authorities. Legal services in both authorities and key partners would be consulted on draft proposals for the Development Trust

Resource and Value for money implications:

The delivery of the Staffordshire History Centre will enable the Archive and Heritage Service to achieve its MTFS savings and deliver a sustainable model for the future.

Risk implications:

The project has secured a stage 1 pass and development stage funding. To proceed to the delivery phase the partnership will need to secure stage two funding, and raise £150,000 of matched funding.

Climate Change implications:

The project balances online access and physical access to services and collections to offer options for remote use and not necessarily travel to multiple locations. Any new buildings will be compliant with modern standards for energy efficiency and minimise impacts on climate change.

Health Impact Assessment screening:

The project offers opportunities for volunteers to get involved and add value to the service with support and accredited training programmes from staff. Volunteering provides many social benefits for individuals which can impact positively on health.

Report author:

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List of Background Papers

Papers	Contact/Directorate/ext number
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Proposals for Staffordshire History Centre Development Trust	
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