

North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet Date: 9 December 2013

ITEM 6(f)

Beamish Museum –
Dissolution of Joint
Committee and New
Arrangements

Portfolio(s): Leisure, Culture and
Tourism

Cabinet Member(s): Eddie Darke

Report from Service Area: Environment and Leisure

Report Author: Phil Scott,
Head of Environment and Leisure

Tel: (0191) 6437295

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Purpose:

This report is consistent with reports to Cabinet across the Region, which are seeking approval for changes in the governance arrangements in relation to the Joint Committee for the North of England Open Air Museum at Beamish.

The purpose of the report therefore, is to seek Cabinet approval for:-

- a) agreement to withdraw from the existing Joint Committee arrangements governing Beamish Museum;
- b) agreement to the transfer of existing museum assets to the Beamish Museum Limited; and
- c) agreement to participate in a newly established Regional Stakeholder Group to advise on the development of the Beamish Museum.

The above actions would in effect disband the Joint Committee for the North of England Open Air Museum and agree that the Authority's involvement in the management of the museum should in future be through the Regional Stakeholders Group, with the right to nominate directors to the Board of Beamish Museum Limited.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (1) agree to the dissolution of the existing Joint Committee governing Beamish Museum;
- (2) agree to the transfer of existing assets to Beamish Museum Limited;
- (3) agree to participate in the wider Regional Stakeholder Group, rather than participate as directors on the Board of Beamish Museum Limited; and
- (4) authorise the Head of Environment and Leisure in consultation with the Head of Law and Governance to effect the completion of the agreement in relation to the above.

1.3 Forward Plan:

28 days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 6th November 2013

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report relates to the following themes/programmes/projects in the [2012-15] Council Strategic Plan:

Our Partners

We will work with the voluntary sector to promote wider community involvement in sports and cultural activities.

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 Background

Beamish Museum is currently run by a Joint Committee comprising members from Durham, Gateshead, North Tyneside, South Tyneside and Sunderland Councils. The operations of the museum are managed through a limited company, Beamish Museum Limited, and its trading company, Beamish Museum Trading Limited.

A Governance Review has recently been undertaken to consider how best to develop the Museum's partnership with all North East local authorities. This has taken into account the needs of the museum's future plan for 2013-2025 and demand for new ways of working with local authorities and other key stakeholders. A Regional Advisory Panel was formed during 2012/13 with two meetings held to shape the recommendations of the review, engaging the Association of North East Councils (ANEC); lead officers/members from all twelve North East authorities; representatives from key partners at the Arts Council England; and Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Regional Advisory Panel considered the current governance arrangements at Beamish and recommended a number of changes to the roles and responsibilities of the Joint Committee, Beamish Museum Limited (the operating charitable company), Beamish Development Trust (fundraising organisation engaging business leaders) and the Friends of Beamish. Officers from Sunderland City Council and Durham County Council also considered a number of technical matters including VAT, financial management, legal agreement/leases and pension issues.

1.5.2 Proposal

The new governance model recommended by the Regional Advisory Panel and subsequently approved by the Joint Committee of Beamish in July 2013 is set out in the structure chart at Appendix 1 and can be summarised as follows:

- (a) Developing further the invaluable fund raising work carried out by the Beamish Development Trust by integrating this group of business leaders within the Friends of Beamish, forming a new working group called the Business Friends of Beamish;
- (b) Reviewing the role of Beamish Museum with the charity taking on a fifty year lease for the museum and its collections from Durham County Council and entering into legal agreements with Durham County Council to take on responsibility for procuring and managing capital developments;

- (c) Reviewing the membership of Beamish Museum Limited with a new board comprising fifteen trustees with eight being local authority nominated trustees from core local authority partners (including the Chair); one being a nominated trustee from the Friends of Beamish; and a further six being co-opted trustees. It is recommended that local authority representation be secured by minimum revenue contribution of £5,000 with constituent authorities dividing up the eight nominations (including Chair) according to the proportion of their respective contributions.
- (d) Maintain the existing Pension Agreement with existing local authority partners continuing to confirm the community benefit to Beamish Museum and its membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme, and collectively providing a guarantee for the historic LGPS Pension deficit that Beamish Museum currently has; and
- (e) Dissolving the Joint Committee of Beamish responding to demand for greater partnership working with local authorities through forming a new regional stakeholder group, working to ANEC and engaging members and officers from all twelve North East local authorities in a light touch and appropriate way.

1.5.3 Regional Stakeholder Group

The Regional Stakeholder Group has been shaped by consultation with local authority and other key partners including the Heritage Lottery Fund and Arts Council England. It has three objectives:

- (a) Provide a light touch but effective way for partners to influence Beamish Museum's policy and strategy, scrutinising decisions and reviewing future budgets/plans through an annual review meeting held every autumn, ensuring that the educational, cultural, community and economic benefits of the museum are genuinely felt across the region;
- (b) Develop a regional forum for developing and resourcing effective partnership working, focussing on delivering projects that generate mutual benefits in a way that links to regional work led by ANEC and does not cut across other organisations working in the region; and
- (c) Focussing on delivery and meeting the needs of partners, providing support to partners where appropriate and only when Beamish can genuinely add value; considering the range of agendas including museum education, marketing, skills/apprenticeships, cultural tourism, community engagement/volunteering and developing resilient business models.

It is anticipated that the Regional Stakeholder Group will generate a number of tangible benefits both for Beamish and its partners including:

- (a) Enabling all North East local authorities to re-engage with and influence Beamish's work in an appropriate and effective way without requiring the revenue contribution;
- (b) Bringing North East authorities together to restate their commitment to Beamish recognising the regional benefits of the museum;
- (c) Encouraging more partnership working between Beamish and its stakeholders, feeding into the ANEC cultural partnership and focussed on generating resource to deliver regional programmes with clear and mutual benefit;
- (d) Creating inspiring learning programmes for schools to encourage more children from across the North East to enjoy learning in museums, building capacity locally and working towards an ambition to provide sponsored school visits to Beamish for every North East primary school child;

- (e) Deepening the economic impact of Beamish across the region and demonstrating the value of investing in cultural tourism, developing more joint working;
- (f) Working together to develop the activities offered in museums and cultural venues for people living with dementia, creating a greater understanding of impact and ensuring access for people from across the region; and
- (g) Enabling Beamish to support partners with a range of issues including developing resilient/sustainable business models and community engagement/volunteering.

It is proposed that the Regional Stakeholder Group will comprise member and officer representation from all twelve local authorities with up to three representatives invited from each local authority. It is hoped that the lead members and officers for culture will be able to attend although they may wish to nominate a relevant substitute. Depending on the items on the agenda for discussion it is anticipated that relevant stakeholders will be invited to attend from time to time including, for example, destination management organisations, Heritage Lottery Fund and Arts Council England. It is anticipated that Beamish will seek funding from the Arts Council major partner museum programme to help provide resource for joint projects to be delivered through the group. Further funding for delivery will be sought from the public and private sectors.

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

Option 1

To agree to the proposals to disband the existing Joint Committee, transfer existing assets to Beamish Museum Limited and to engage with the Regional Stakeholder Group.

Option 2

Not to agree to the proposals.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

To rationalise the governance arrangements for Beamish Museum to enable delivery of the benefits set out in this report.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix 1: Future Organisational Chart from **2014**.

1.9 Contact officers:

Steve Bishop, Senior Manager, Cultural Services, tel. (0191) 6437410
Stephen Ballantyne, Lawyer Specialist, Governance and Employment,
tel. (0191) 6435329
Alison Campbell, Finance Business Manager, tel. (0191) 6437038

1.10 Background information:

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

- (1) Constitution of the Beamish North Of England Open Air Museum Joint Committee - Report to Cabinet 18th July 2006

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.

2.2 Legal

Section 12 of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 provides that a local authority may provide and maintain museums within their administrative area or elsewhere in England and Wales and may do all things that are necessary or expedient for or in connection with their provision or maintenance.

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2000 as amended, the Beamish North of England Open Air Museum Joint Committee is an executive outside body. Cabinet has responsibility for determining whether to agree to the proposed dissolution and agreeing to the proposed new arrangements.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

The Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Tourism has been consulted on this proposal.

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

None undertaken or deemed necessary.

2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

2.6 Risk management

These proposals place responsibility for decision making solely within the charitable company removing the duplication of responsibilities with the Joint Committee which currently exists. The Constitution of the Board of Directors is designed to ensure that the museum remains within local authority control whilst gaining maximum benefit from the expertise available in the private sector.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no implications arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no implications arising from this report.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s) X
- Chief Finance Officer X
- Monitoring Officer X
- Strategic Manager Policy, Partnerships, Performance and Communications X

FUTURE ORGANISATIONAL CHART FROM 2014

