

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting13th February 2014

1. Title of Item/Report

Preston Hall Update Report

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on the first years' activities of Preston Hall Museum since the completion of the refurbishment and its re-opening in Summer 2012.

The last Cabinet Report (CMT February 2012) reported on ongoing progress in preparation for the reopening of Preston Park Museum in Summer 2012. The works had transformed the way people experience the building, they created a clear link from the main entrance to the Victorian Street, reveal the function of the Hall as the home of the Ropners, and created a bigger shop space. Offices previously at the centre of the Hall had been moved into less accessible spaces at the end of the Victorian Street, and the vacated rooms were now used for temporary exhibitions. A new lift had improved disabled access to the first floor. The changes had also separated the Billiard Room and Music Room from the entrance area to create a function suite capable of hosting a range of hires and events.

These major works had not been limited to the Hall. The Kitchen Gardens had been recreated, and the orchard replanted, new stores and crafts workshops had replaced the crude tin sheds that were a legacy of use of parts of the park as a tree nursery and depot.

Work had also been carried out to the Park, improving traffic flows, visitor facilities and beginning the reinstatement of the historic landscape setting of the Hall. Play facilities had been improved and modest works have been undertaken to café and toilets. Footpaths, cycle ways and interpretation had strengthened connections to the wider Tees Heritage Park and long distance trails. A new jetty had improved access to the river and created opportunities for river based transport links and activities.

A full list of the key elements of the three development phases was attached to the report.

The report was not an analysis of the financial profile of the museum. Detailed analysis would be possible at the end of the financial year. However, projected income figures were included in relevant sections to illustrate the relative scale of growth in income generated activities.

RESOLVED that the success of the Museum Project in re-establishing itself as a popular visitor attraction be noted.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To make members aware of the progress that has been made since the re-opening of the Museum in relation to visitor figures, income, awards and accreditation.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight on Friday, 21st February 2014

Proper Officer
17 February 2014