



Special Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Date **Wednesday 28 July 2021**
Time **1.30 pm**
Venue **Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham**

Business

Part A

**Items during which the Press and Public are welcome to attend.
Members of the Public can ask questions with the Chair's agreement.**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Substitute Members
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Review of the Durham Light Infantry (DLI) Collection and Archive -
Report of the Corporate Director of Resources (Interim) and the
Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth
(Pages 3 - 44)
5. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chair of the meeting, is
of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

Helen Lynch
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
20 July 2021

To: **The Members of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny
Management Board**

Councillor C Martin (Chair)

Councillor C Lines (Vice-Chair)

Councillors R Crute, A Batey, E Adam, P Jopling, L Maddison,
R Manchester, B Avery, J Charlton, R Charlton-Lainé, J Cosslett, B Coult,
J Elmer, D Freeman, O Gunn, C Hood, L Hovvels, J Howey, A Jackson,
C Marshall, B Moist, K Shaw, M Stead, A Surtees and M Wilson

Contact: Lucy Gladders

Tel: 03000 269712

**Corporate Overview and Scrutiny
Management Board**

28 July 2021



**Review of the Durham Light Infantry
(DLI) Collection and Archive**

Report of Corporate Management Team

Paul Darby, Corporate Director of Resources (Interim)

Electoral division(s) affected:

None

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (COSMB) an opportunity to contribute to a review by Cabinet of the options for the future storage, care and display of the Durham Light Infantry (DLI) Collection, archive, museum buildings and grounds.

Executive summary

- 2 At the Cabinet meeting on 16 June 2021 it was agreed to hold a review to reconsider options for the future of the DLI collection and archive. The overview and scrutiny function of the Council was asked to contribute to the review by way of an open session with elected members and key stakeholders.
- 3 The role of overview and scrutiny is to scrutinise decisions of the executive, to hold them to account and make recommendations on policy development and implementation.
- 4 The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board provides strategic oversight and co-ordinates the work of overview and scrutiny and the five thematic committees. Where a subject is crosscutting across a number of scrutiny committees, COSMB is the appropriate forum as the chairs and vice chairs of the thematic committees are members of the Board.

- 5 Key stakeholders have been given the opportunity to put forward their views by either attending this meeting or making written representations.
- 6 A presentation will be made by the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth setting out the context, current position, and overview of the review scope.
- 7 A summary of the key issues identified at the meeting will be reported to Cabinet on 15 September 2021 to inform their review.

Recommendation(s)

- 8 COSMB is recommended to:
 - (a) Consider and comment on the information presented and agree key issues and considerations for inclusion in a report to the Cabinet meeting on 15 September 2021.

Background

- 9 In 2015 Cabinet considered proposals on the future arrangements for the DLI Museum. Cabinet agreed to new arrangements for the storage and display of the DLI collection which included the storage of items at the Sevenhills facility and proposals for the loan of items to a number of venues including Palace Green Library, Bishop Auckland Town Hall, Spennymoor, Newton Aycliffe and Seaham. This was part of an approach to widening the exposure of the history of the DLI to wider groups whilst also achieving medium term financial plan (MTFP) savings.
- 10 Further arrangements were agreed by Cabinet on 17 January 2018 as part of consideration of a report on the development of the Aykley Heads site as a Strategic Employment Site, the relocation of the DCC Headquarters to the city centre and the new History Centre development which would include storage, care and display for the DLI collection and archive.
- 11 The Council's Joint Administration has requested a review of the proposed arrangements for the care, storage and display of the Durham Light Infantry Collection, archive, museum building and grounds. This is a key priority to review and ensure that the proud and significant military history of County Durham is recognised.
- 12 An options appraisal will be produced to include a full assessment of opportunities, costs, risks, other funding availability. This will also include an impact assessment on the plans for the new History Centre, with the outcome considered by Cabinet by September 2021.

- 13 The Cabinet review scope poses two high level questions which inform scrutiny's review.
- Question 1: Can the former DLI building be brought back into use to house the DLI collection?
 - Question 2: What are the options to repurpose the former DLI building/site for an alternative use?
- 14 The key stakeholders that have been invited to attend the COSMB meeting or make written representations are as follows:
- DLI Trustees
 - The Army Museums Ogilby Trust (AMOT)
 - The Faithful Durham
 - National Lottery Heritage Fund
 - National Army Museum
 - The National Archives
 - Veterans representatives – DLI Association and DLI Friends
 - Arts Council England
- 15 The relevant portfolio members have been invited to the meeting to hear the views of key stakeholders and members firsthand.

Role of COSMB

- 16 Scrutiny's role is to scrutinise decisions of the executive, to hold them to account and make recommendations on policy development and implementation. Cabinet have recognised the importance of an independent minded scrutiny function and requested scrutiny's support by holding an open consultative session of members and key stakeholders.
- 17 The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is the appropriate forum to undertake a review session as requested by Cabinet as it brings together representation from all five thematic scrutiny committees.
- 18 This meeting is a special meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board with a single item agenda to consider recommendations to support Cabinet's review on the options for the future of the DLI collection and archive.

- 19 Members will have the opportunity to ask questions on the information presented by the key stakeholders and the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth.
- 20 The Board will identify and agree key issues and recommendations for inclusion in a report to the Cabinet meeting on 15 September 2021.

Format and scope of meeting

- 21 A presentation will be made by the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth which will cover:
 - The context and history of previous decisions regarding the DLI museum, collection and archive
 - The development of the Durham History Centre project
 - The current context of the DLI Collection and archive
 - An overview of the review scope and key implications
- 22 Key stakeholders will be asked to present their views. They have been asked to consider framing their presentation based on the following structure:
 - History of the organisation with the DLI Museum and Art Gallery before and since 2015
 - Views of the move of the DLI collection from Sevenhills and archive from County Hall to the History Centre
 - What you would want to achieve for the DLI collection and/or archive?
 - What would you like to achieve for the former DLI museum and art gallery at Aykley Heads?
 - What would you like to see the Council take into account in making its recommendations?
- 23 The key issues suggested for consideration by COSMB are set out below although these are indicative only and are not an exhaustive list:
 - Engagement work and outcomes before and after the museum closure
 - Communication and messaging across the relevant decision-making processes
 - National policy, practice, and funding trends
 - Key features of the collections and/or archives
 - Key features of the former DLI Museum and Art Gallery

- Issues relating to the grounds
 - Current standards for collection and archive storage, conservation and display and their relationship to each other
 - High level financial issues such cost per visitor (CPV) benchmark
- 24 The meeting will be held in person at County Hall. Members of the public are entitled to attend all meetings of the council including scrutiny committees. Every effort will be made to accommodate those who wish to attend the meeting. It is anticipated that due to the restrictions in place for COVID-19 the strict limits on how many people are allowed in the Council Chamber where the meeting will take place will still be in place. The meeting will also be broadcast live on the Council's YouTube channel.
- 25 The presentation by the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth is attached at Appendix 2.
- 26 Written representations have been received from the DLI Trustees, the National Archives and the Arts Council and these are attached at Appendices 3, 4 and 5.

Background papers

- Review of DLI Collection Archive and the Future of the DLI Building and Grounds - report to Cabinet and minutes 16 June 2021

Contact: Andy Palmer

Tel: 03000 268551

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None

Finance

None

Consultation

Key stakeholders have been invited to participate in the COSMB meeting.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None

Climate Change

None

Human Rights

None

Crime and Disorder

None

Staffing

None

Accommodation

None

Risk

None

Procurement

None

Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Management Board DLI review

28 July 2021



Outline of Presentation

1. Overview of the scope of the review
 - 1.1 Key Questions
 - 1.2 Making the Assessment
2. the context and history of the previous decisions regarding the DLI museum, collection and archive
3. the current context of the DLI Collection and Archive
4. the development of the Durham History Centre project
5. Summary of review

1. DLI Review Scope

- Options for displaying and storing and care of DLI collection in the existing DLI building.
- An impact assessment on the plans for the new History Centre
- Impact on the storage, display, and care of other DCC collections
- High level options assessment which will include any suitable alternatives uses for the former DLI building and with regard to the grounds and environment around the site.

1.1 Key Questions

Question 1:

Can the former DLI building be brought back into use to house the DLI collection?

Question 2:

What are the options to repurpose the former DLI building/site for an alternative use?

1.2 Making the Assessment

Question 1:

- Planning implications, including any impact on the development of Aykley Heads
- A high-level assessment of both capital and revenue costs, any opportunities to generate income as well as any risks and legal implications.
- A brief overview of the associated management and promotion strategy required.
- Indicative forecast of demand assessment i.e. likely visitor numbers.
- A high-level value for money assessment
- An impact assessment on the new History Centre of re-opening DLI.
- Engagement with partners to understand views and implications
- Review to have regard to options to enhance the environment and grounds around the site.

1.2 Making the Assessment

Question 2:

- Planning implications including any impact on the development of Aykley Heads
- Market review
- Architectural review - this work will be carried out by an independent architect.
- Legal review
- Professional review identifying heritage, cultural and collections practice and issues, and impact on the accreditation of the DLI collection and other council collections
- All review options to have regard to the potential to enhance or improve the grounds and environment

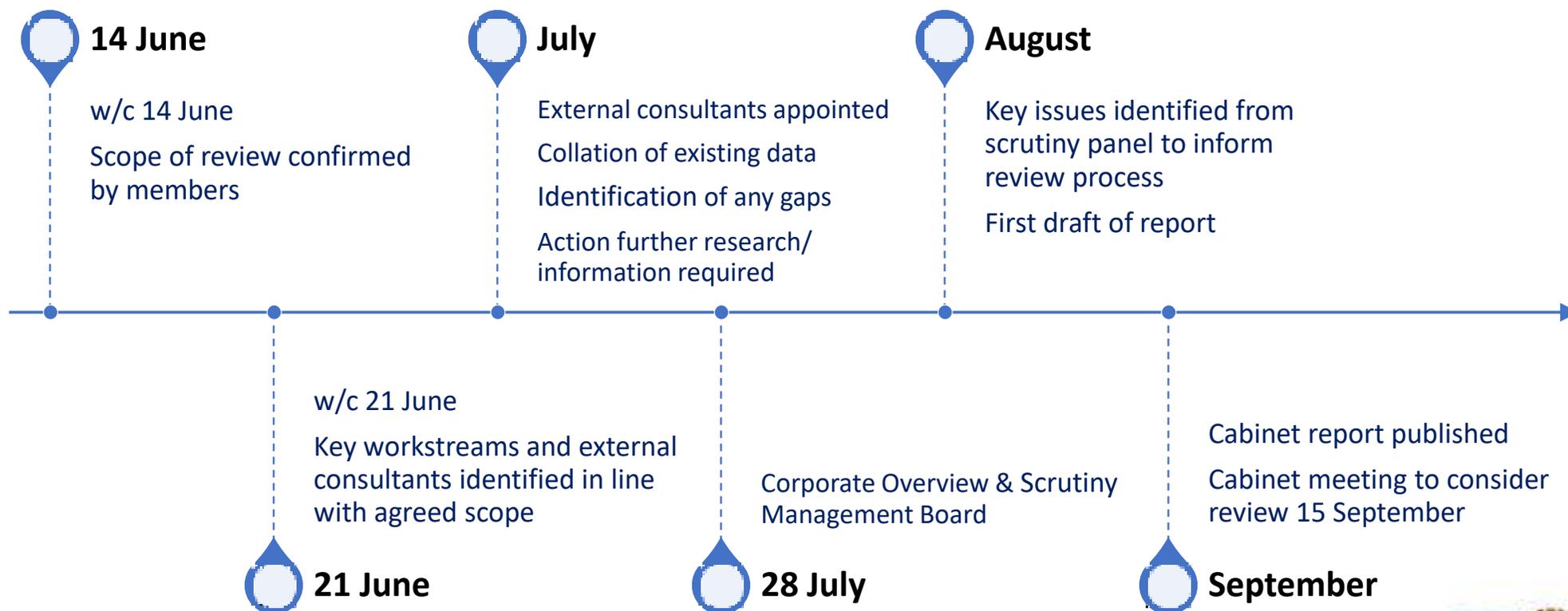
1.2 Making the Assessment

Outcome

- The full report will:
 - **highlight high level risks** as well as any likely significant implications, including reputational risk.
 - **include any cost implications** and a high-level cost and benefit analysis of the respective potential scenarios.
 - **take into account the views of the Collection trustees and other professional bodies** such as National Lottery Heritage Fund, Arts Council England, The National Archives and other interested stakeholders
 - **include a full evidence review** of existing documents as well as the commission of new information.

1.2 Making the Assessment

Timeframe

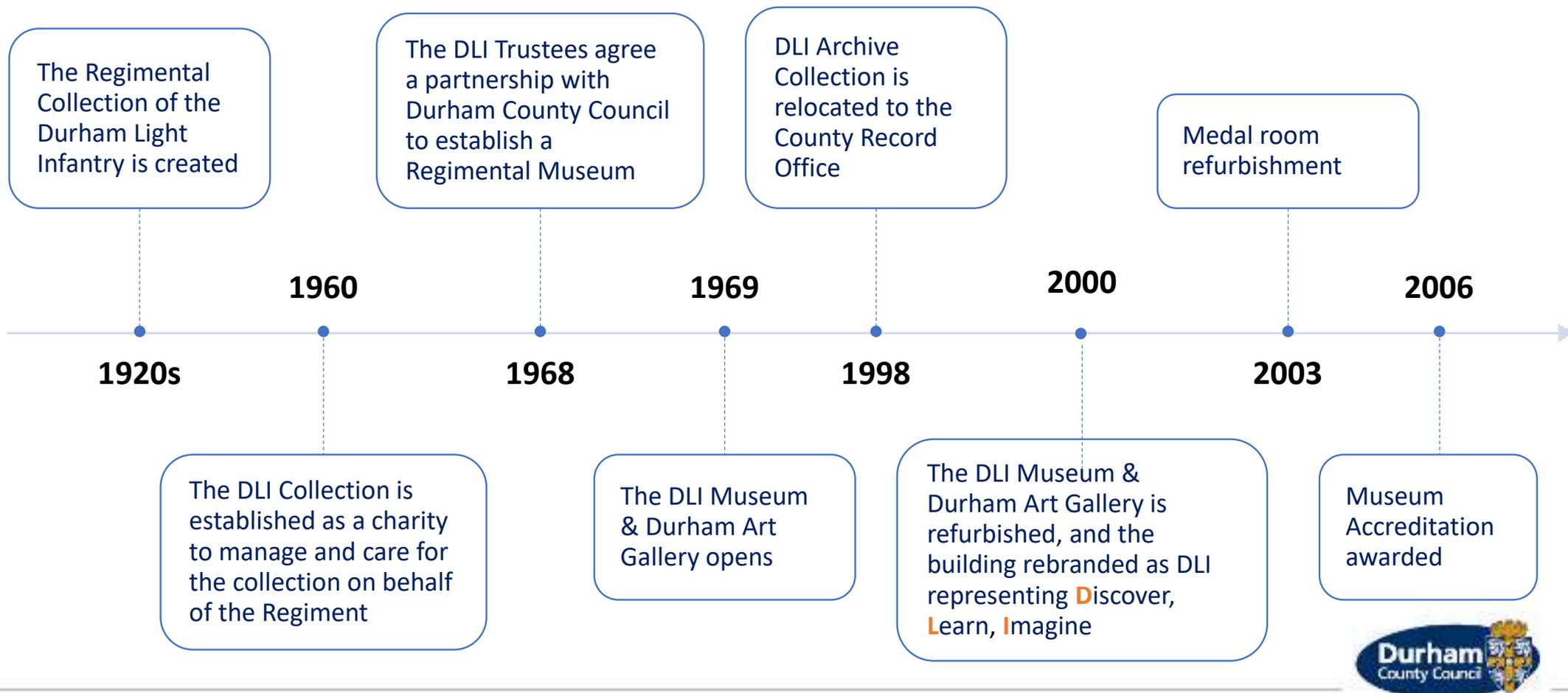


2. Context and history of the previous decisions regarding the DLI museum, collection and archive



Photographs of objects and archive from the DLI collection

2. Context and history of the previous decisions regarding the DLI museum, collection and archive

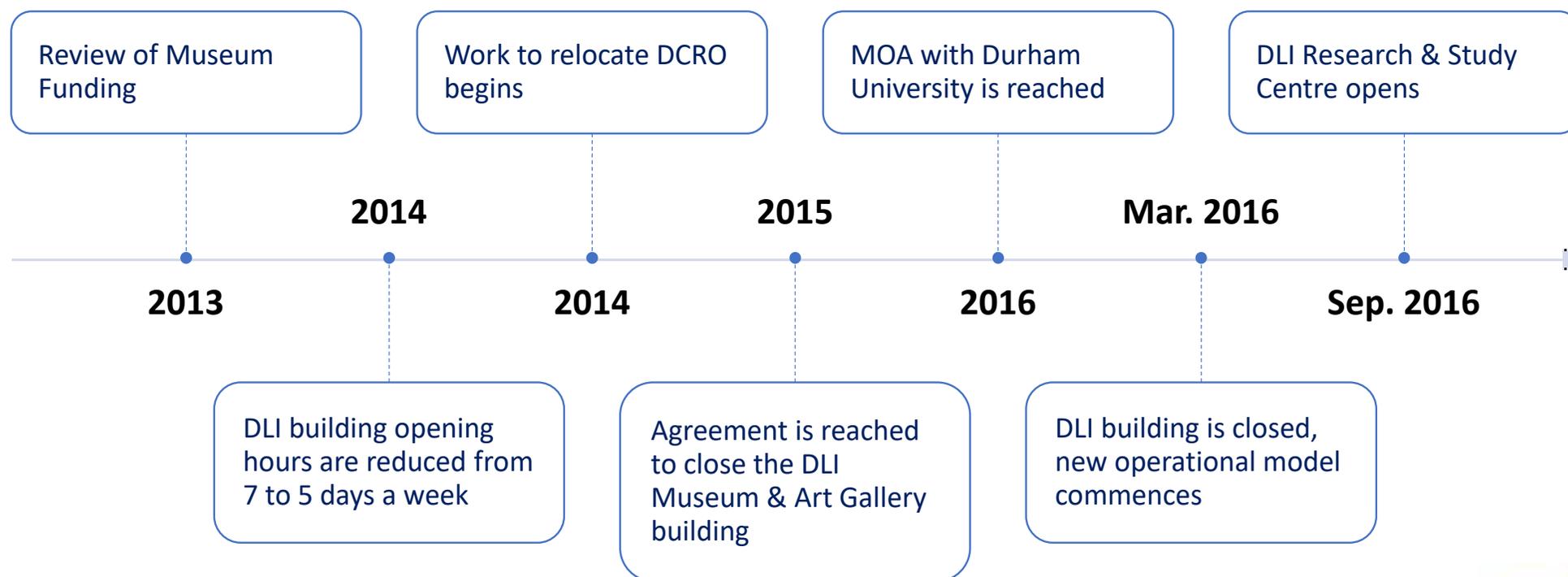


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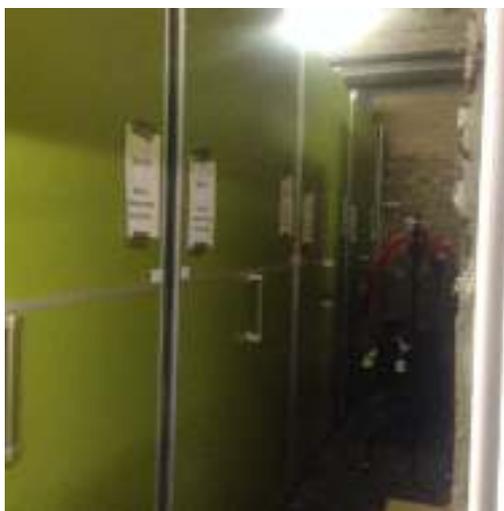


Photographs of the DLI Museum & Durham Art Gallery following refurbishment in 2000

2. Context and history of the previous decisions regarding the DLI museum, collection and archive



2. Context and history of the previous decisions regarding the DLI museum, collection and archive



- Space given over to collection storage (43m²) was inadequate for the size of the collection
- Collection stores did not meet British Standard 5454 (now BS4971.2017) for the care of heritage collections

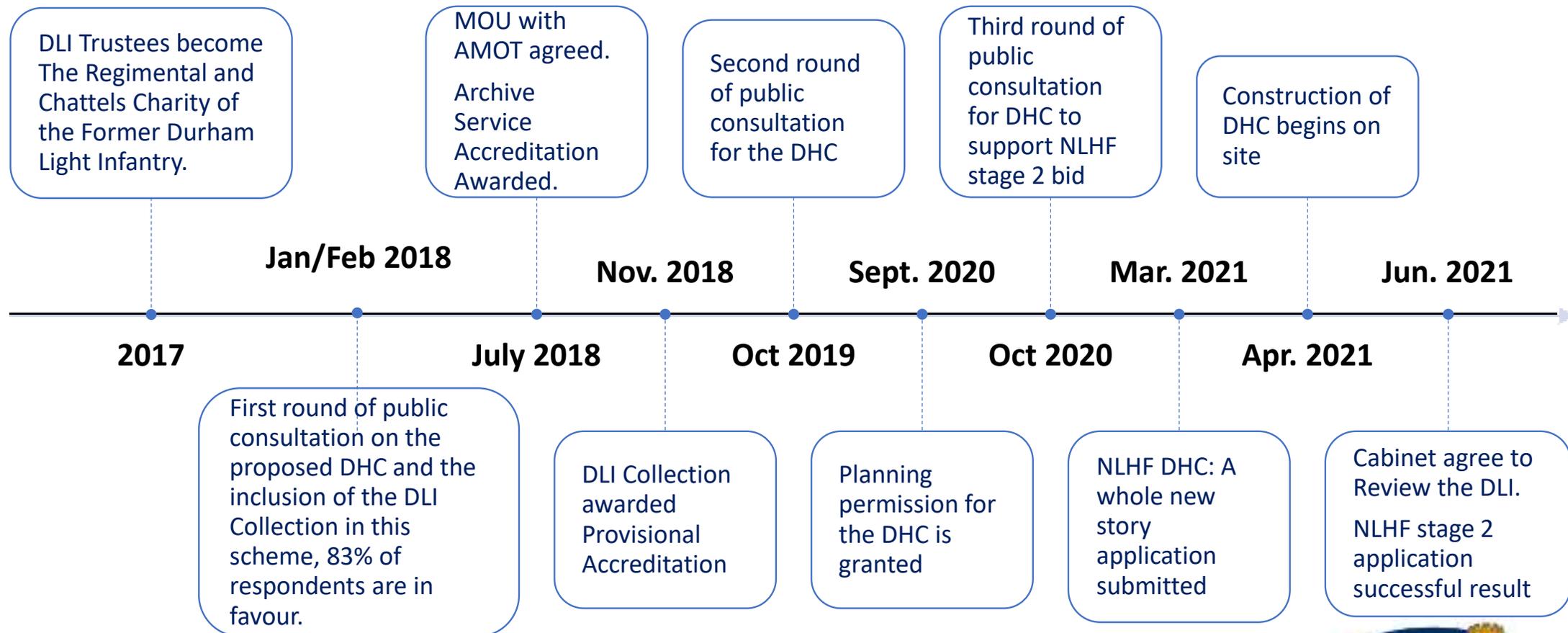


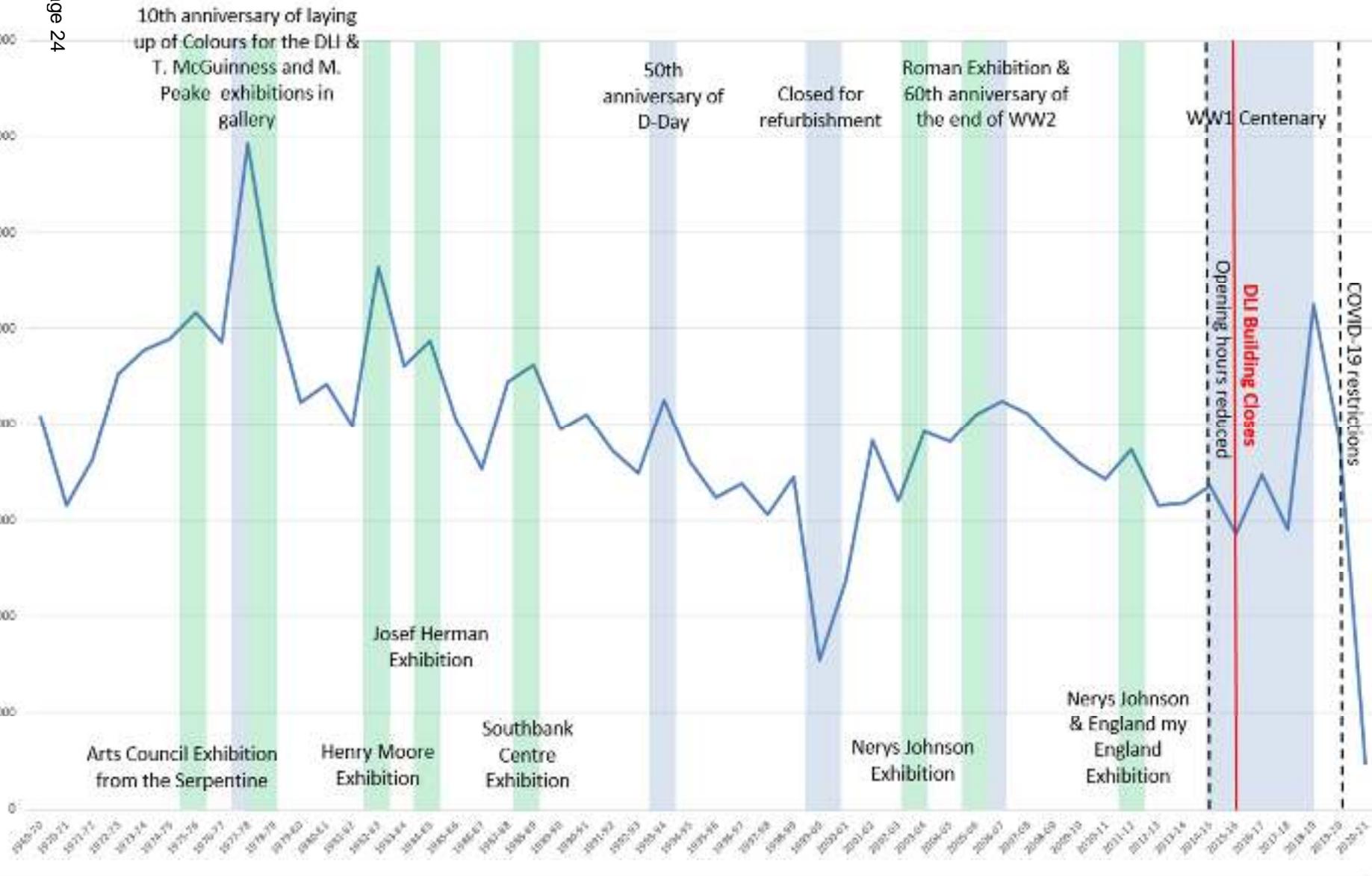
2. Context and history of the previous decisions regarding the DLI museum, collection and archive



Photographs of the Durham Art Gallery at the former DLI building

2. Context and history of the previous decisions regarding the DLI museum, collection and archive





3. The current context of the DLI Collection and Archive



Permanent Exhibition: Courage, Comrades and Community

- Based in Palace Green Library
- 55 objects on display
- AV content and interactives
- Free to enter (note former DLI museum was not Free)
- 67,327 visitor March 2017 - March 2020



3. The current context of the DLI Collection and Archive

Somme 2016



When the Bugle Calls 2018/18



Coming Home, 2019



Temporary Exhibitions

- Delivered across the County, venues so far: Bishop Auckland, Stanhope, Seaham Spennymoor, Durham City
- 3 delivered so far: *Somme 2016*, *When the Bugle Calls* and *Coming Home*
- More than 76,500 people have visited temporary DLI exhibitions
- Free to enter (note former DLI museum was not Free)

3. The current context of the DLI Collection and Archive



Photographs of the current stores in DCRO and the DLI Research & Study Centre at Sevenhills



4. The development of the Durham History Centre project

- Work together as five services to create a sustainable service model
- Safeguard and manage the collections to the highest professional standards
- Engage a wider range of people from all backgrounds, circumstances and age with the collections and our programmes
- Work closely with partners to deliver activity programmes
- Connect people with the collections digitally
- Provide volunteering and upskilling opportunities
- Create enhanced facilities for weddings and civil ceremonies in a historic setting
- Bring a locally important building back into community use.
- **Reunite the full DLI object collection, including the medal collection, with the DLI archive for the first time since 1998 in controlled conditions which are in line with sector best practice**
- **In the history centre items which are part of the DLI Collection will be available to view by members of the public, items will also be available for loan to other locations and exhibitions to reach as many people as possible**

4. The development of the Durham History Centre project; Summary of public consultation

2018

- Online survey, 4 public drop in sessions, 10 AAP sessions, focus groups and stakeholder interviews
- **607 responses** – 490 online 117 paper surveys
- **83% of respondents in favour** of History Centre proposals including the inclusion of the DLI Collection and Archive
- 21% of ‘Other Comments’ (free text area) on the proposals were positive towards the full DLI collection of objects and archive being located together

4. The development of the Durham History Centre project; Summary of public consultation

2019

- Online survey, 4 public drop in sessions, 14 AAP sessions, focus groups and stakeholder interviews – carried out by independent consultant
- 195 survey responses, 156 online, 39 paper surveys
- High level results:
 - *Design: every element of the design was more liked than it was disliked.* The most liked element was the exhibition space, with 73% of people liking it.
 - *Access: 67% of respondents said they would want to access the History Centre by car (parking nearby). 19% of respondents they would access via bus.*
 - *71% of respondents want to learn about local history at Durham History Centre.*

4. The development of the Durham History Centre project; Summary of public consultation

2020

- Online survey, virtual focus groups and interviews – carried out by independent consultant
- 356 online survey responses
- High level results:
 - General support for the concept and the proposed service model
 - 98% of respondents are interested in history and heritage of their local area, community and family
 - 90% of respondents are likely or very likely to visit when the history centre opens in 2023
 - When asked what comes to mind when you think about the heritage of County Durham the top 5 answers (in popularity order) were: mining, DLI, religion, industry and natural heritage

4. The development of the Durham History Centre project; Summary of public consultation

Who we've spoken to:

- Local people
- Music Service
- Investing in Children
- City of Sanctuary
- Teachers and those working in the cultural and education sector
- Durham Disability Partnership
- People with an interest in history and heritage who had never visited any of the services
- Existing users from all services
- Existing users & members of local history societies
- DCC Youth Council
- North East African Community Association
- Wellbeing for Life County Durham and Darlington NHS Trust
- County Durham Partnership Team
- East Durham Creates
- Northumberland and Durham Family History Society
- Durham County Local History Society
- Friends of Durham County Record Office
- Durham University
- DCC Community Arts team
- Outdoor learning leads - DCC Parks team
- Schools leadership advisor
- Consultation Palace Green library users
- Durham Age UK
- Durham U3A
- Durham Community Action
- Northern Bridge Consortium
- Gypsy and Traveller Communities
- Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland
- Durham City Parish Council
- Durham County Local History Society
- Raby Castle
- Cornsay Parish Council
- Diocese of Durham
- Strathmore Durham estates
- Cumbria Archive Service
- DLI Association
- County Durham Forum for History and Heritage
- Parents of children under 12
- Learning and physical disability groups
- Alzheimer's Society
- Beamish Museum
- NHS Trusts (as record owners)
- Darlington and Teesdale Naturalists Field Club (as archive owners)
- Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland
- Archaeological Research Services Ltd
- Sunderland Heritage Forum
- Brancepeth Archives and History Group
- AAPs

4. The development of the Durham History Centre project

Durham History Centre: A whole new story

Summary of Project:

- Five year project worth £2 million
- Sector leading digital collections integration
- Innovative digital exhibition assets
- Comprehensive public activity programme:
 - 40% of engagement delivered as outreach across the County
 - Focus on wellbeing and people
 - Travelling exhibitions co-created with communities
 - We will work with communities not for them



5. Summary of Review

Scope:

- Options for displaying and storing and care of DLI collection in the existing DLI building.
- An impact assessment on the plans for the new History Centre
- Impact on the storage, display, and care of other DCC collections and achieve
- High level options assessment which will include any suitable alternatives uses for the former DLI building and with regard to the grounds and environment around the site.

Question 1:

Can the former DLI building be brought back into use to house the DLI collection?

Question 2:

What are the options to repurpose the former DLI building/site for an alternative use?

Colonel HE Shields MBE
Chairman



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Registered Charity Number 1174128

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

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Durham County Council
County Hall
Durham
DH1 5UL

19 July 2021

Dear Board Members,

WRITTEN REPRESENTATION FOR THE REVIEW OF THE DURHAM LIGHT INFANTRY (DLI) COLLECTION AND ARCHIVE: 28 JULY 2021

I regret that I am unable to be present at your special meeting on 28 July 2021 but thank you for the opportunity to submit this written representation to convey the views of the Trustees of The Regimental and Chattels Charity of The Former Durham Light Infantry.

Established in 1922, the Charity has legal title to the Regimental Collection and the Regimental Archive currently on loan to Durham County Council. The Regiment, past¹ and present², is extremely grateful to Durham County Council for their exceptional commitment to the professional conservation, curation and advocacy of the Collection since 1967.

Few, if any, Regiments have been as fortunate as us to enjoy such strong connections with the County from which they recruit. The Durham Light Infantry was in existence for 210 years (1758 to 1968) and served quite literally around the world. There are many in the North East with proud family connections to the Regiment. As a senior Durham Light Infantryman, General Sir Nigel Poett, so pertinently remarked some 60 years ago, 'It is the people of County Durham who have made the story of The Durham Light Infantry.' The Council's Joint Administration review to 'ensure that the proud and significant military history of County Durham is recognised' is thus further evidence, if any were needed, of the esteem felt by the people of County Durham for their Regiment.

The Charity's principal charitable object is the advancement of education for the public benefit by holding and facilitating the display of the Regimental Collection. In so doing we are able to 'uphold the traditions of the former Durham Light Infantry and of perpetuating its deeds.'

¹ The Durham Light infantry until 1968 and then The Light Infantry until 2007.

² The Rifles since 2007.

History of the Charity with the DLI Museum and Art Gallery since 2015

It was with mixed emotions that the Trustees learnt in 2015 that the DLI Museum and Art Gallery was to close. However, the Trustees well understood that the increasing running costs, the financial pressures on the Council and, it has to be said, the falling footfall at the Museum all contributed to the decision. We have been extremely grateful for the arrangements for the Object Collection's care and safekeeping that were put in place at Sevenhills and at the Palace Green Library.

It is worth noting that the Regimental Archive had already been relocated in 1998 because the storage conditions in the Museum building were neither suitable nor particularly accessible. We are very grateful that the Archive, since that time, has been cared for by the Council to the high standards demanded by national Archive Service Accreditation. Furthermore, the Archive is now widely accessible and accessed online daily by a worldwide audience.

Views of the move of the DLI Collection from Sevenhills and Archive from County Hall to the History Centre

In 2019, the Trustees were delighted to learn of – and to contribute to – the plans for the Durham History Centre. It is a rightfully ambitious and exciting project which, in co-locating five important historical collections within the County, will provide a conveniently located 'one stop shop' for all those who wish to explore both personal and County heritage. It is understood that it will not be possible for a permanent space to be allocated to the DLI Collection but we view this positively since exhibitions need to be refreshed from time to time in order to attract visitors and that the display of medals, badges and weapons in endless serried ranks can be a barrier to interpretation. Better the selection of representative artefacts to convey themes and messages and to commemorate significant anniversaries, such as the Battle of Inkerman (1854), as and when exhibition space permits.

What you would want to achieve for the DLI Collection and/or Archive?

We want to ensure that the DLI's unique Collection and Archive will continue to be professionally preserved by dedicated experts for future generations and, through permanent, temporary, outreach and digital programmes, be accessible to a very wide audience. The emerging plans for the exhibitions and activities at the Durham History Centre as well as the outreach activities further afield look to do just that. They will really bring the collection to life and – critically – to many more people. Notably, in our increasingly digital world, the Centre's plans to take the many dimensions of the County's story beyond the traditional confines of a 'museum' will surely enrich the lives of people across the County and the North East.

The Durham History Centre will reunite the DLI Collection and Archives. We hope that there will be scope to combine with the other collections at the Centre to deliver more coherent historical context. We recognise that the DLI is but one seam in the County's overall story. Durham Light Infantrymen were certainly soldiers but they also came from - and returned to - civilian life. It is therefore entirely appropriate to tell our story in that wider context.

Mount Oswald Manor House is an attractive site. It is in a convenient location with good public transport links which will likely draw in some of those visiting the Durham World Heritage Site, some visitors 'signposted' by the superb DLI Collection Gallery on Palace Green.

What would you like to achieve for the former DLI Museum and Art Gallery at Aykley Heads?

We are unable to comment on the current state and condition of the building at Aykley Heads but we assume that a building of over 50 years is not without its maintenance issues. However, it is clear that the tranquil grounds around the former Museum and Art Gallery have become a place for some to reflect and to remember. As far as the Regiment is concerned, the Inkerman Stone, commemorating the Regiment's VC winners and which had been unveiled in 2001 within the grounds, was the last significant item to be relocated - to Palace Green in 2018. There is therefore little, other than fond memories of the Museum, that is of Regimental interest at Aykley Heads.

Although we gather more formally to honour the Regiment in September each year, and at other times, at the DLI Chapel (since 1923) in the Cathedral and in the Memorial Garden (since 1950), the Trustees hope that the grounds at Aykley Heads may remain a place to reflect and remember, perhaps commemorating those who have been lost to COVID-19.

What would you like to see the Council take into account in making its recommendations?

The Charity's principal charitable object is the advancement of education for the public benefit by holding and facilitating the display of the Regimental Collection. In so doing we are able to 'uphold the traditions of the former Durham Light Infantry and of perpetuating its deeds.'

The Trustees' objectives are to ensure that:

- The DLI Collection continues to be professionally conserved for the benefit of all for the future
- Visitors will be able to access the Collection and Archive physically (including outreach programmes) as well as digitally

There is no doubt that the DLI Collection and Archive should be in Durham but the Trustees do not feel tied to Aykley Heads. We recognise the many innovative opportunities that the Durham History Centre presents.

Concluding Comments

The Regiment is extremely grateful to Durham County Council for their exceptional commitment to the professional conservation, curation and advocacy of the Collection since 1967. Few, if any, Regiments have been as fortunate as us to enjoy such strong connections with the County from which they recruit.

Finally, we wish to emphasise our view that the DLI is but one seam in the County's overall story. Durham Light Infantrymen were certainly soldiers but they also came from - and returned to - civilian life. It is therefore entirely appropriate to tell our story alongside the other Collections that are managed by Durham County Council.

We stand ready to assist the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as and when they may require.

'FAITHFUL'

Ted Shields

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Review of the Durham Light Infantry (DLI) Collection and Archive

Durham County Council

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Council Chamber, County Hall, 28 July 2021

The National Archives written statement

The National Archives has been invited to present views on the Review of the Durham Light Infantry (DLI) Collection and Archive.

We are grateful for this opportunity to provide a written statement which focuses on the nature of our responsibilities in respect of archive collections in England and describes our relationship with Durham County Record Office and the Durham History Centre project.

Our Role

The National Archives is a non-ministerial government department linked to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. The National Archives has a leadership role for archives in England, informing policy development and supporting archives to deliver effective services which meet the needs and expectations of their stakeholders.

The Chief Executive and Keeper of Public Records also has a statutory role in relation to local archive services where they have been appointed to hold records under the Public Records Act 1958.

The National Archives has a long-standing relationship with Durham County Record Office which is underpinned by the Place of Deposit arrangements. Durham County Record Office is approved by The National Archives, on behalf of the Secretary of State, to hold certain categories of public record under section 4(1) of the Public Records Act, including those for local Magistrates' Courts, Coroners, hospitals, and prisons.

Our leadership role and other responsibilities mean that The National Archives takes an interest in the Record Office for a variety of other reasons connected with the development of services and collections, and the Archives Sector Development team work closely with Record Office staff.

Background

Durham County Record Office's collections are of major significance, and they form an integral and important part of the overall national network of archive services. The performance of the Record Office has also been recognised by the award in

2018 of Archive Service Accreditation, the UK standard for archive services. We know the Durham Light Infantry Archive has been in the care of Durham County Record Office since 1998 and is an important part of the county's archival collections. The Archive has been developed substantially since it was transferred, receiving recently an Archives Revealed cataloguing grant to increase accessibility and bring new stories to life¹.

We have been working closely with Durham County Record Office on the development of new archive facilities for some time and we support the approach taken to adapt the Mount Oswald site for archive purposes and to combine the Record Office with several other services within the History Centre.

It has been apparent for a number of years that the current archive accommodation at County Hall is becoming increasingly unsuitable for such important records and there was insufficient capacity to further develop the collection with little scope for creating expansion space on the site that would meet current archival good practice standards.

The temporary measures taken to address these accommodation issues are impressive in the circumstances and have allowed Place of Deposit status to continue; however, they could only be seen as an interim arrangement rather than a long-term solution.

In this context the development of plans for the Durham History Centre was therefore positive and encouraging and represents an important step towards ensuring that all County Durham's wide-ranging and unique archival heritage will be housed in state-of-the-art facilities and will be made available to local communities in a variety of innovative ways, for the current and future generations. It will also secure Place of Deposit status and Archive Service Accreditation.

Options for arrangements for the DLI Collection and Archive

We would like to highlight two matters to be considered in the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board's consideration of the available options for the arrangements of the DLI Collection and Archive:

1. We recommend that national standards and best practice are followed in respect of archive accommodation and the accompanying services. In addition to the national standards on preservation and archive facilities, there is specific guidance on the management of archives in museum settings that would be relevant².

¹ Archives Revealed is a partnership programme between The National Archives, The Pilgrim Trust and the Wolfson Foundation, and is the only funding stream in the UK dedicated to cataloguing and unlocking archives.

² The relevant standards and guidance include: BS4971:2017, *Conservation and care of archive and library collections*, BS EN16893:2018, *Conservation of Cultural Heritage. Specifications for location, construction and modification of buildings or rooms intended for the storage or use of heritage collections*, The Association for Independent Museums, *Successfully Managing Archives in Museums* (2015) and The National Archives, *Managing mixed collections. Guidance for archive services* (2021).

There are potentially economies of scale and other efficiencies to be derived from managing collections together in a holistic way where they benefit from ideal conditions and professional care, and advantages in terms of access in having complementary records available at a single location.

It is also our view that collaboration and partnership working can underpin the sustainability of the future operating models for the organisations involved and has advantages for the users of their services.

2. The development of the Durham History Centre scheme is a considerable achievement, and the Centre is likely to be a noteworthy addition to the region's heritage facilities. We would therefore hope that the review takes into consideration the potential implications for the Durham History Centre and its success and continued sustainability. Substantial changes to the scheme could affect the retention of Archive Service Accreditation.

We hope that these comments are of assistance, and we would be very happy to respond to any questions the Board may have arising from this statement.

Dr Emma Markiewicz
Head of Archives Sector Development
The National Archives

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COSMB 28 July 2021 - Review of the Durham Light Infantry (DLI) Collection and Archive

Response on behalf of Arts Council England

History of the organisation with the DLI Museum and Art Gallery before and since 2015

- The Museum received Renaissance Strategic Support funding from the Arts Council some years ago. The Museum is currently in assessment for Accreditation status which is now a condition for any future ACE investment. The Arts Council was consulted about the relocation of the collection in 2015 and noted then the sensitive and practical handling of the issues by the County Council.

Views of the move of the DLI collection from Sevenhills and archive from County Hall to the History Centre

- The move is consistent with the County Council's approach to maintaining high standards of conservation with increased accessibility. There would be clear benefits to having the collections in one place allowing better management, accessibility and profile. It would also facilitate further digital exploitation of the collections and outreach. The History Centre has the potential to be a destination in its own right for Durham residents, visitors, including from the Durham diaspora, and students. Durham has a rich and powerful history : helped by the relocation the Centre will ensure that this story embraces that of everyday lives and Durham communities, including the heroic and the less well known.

What you would want to achieve for the DLI collection and/or archive?

- Maintenance of strong curatorial values and high standards of archive practice. Continued ambition for better accessibility. Full accreditation status. The telling of the stories of the everyday lives of Durham residents alongside its grander histories.

What would you like to achieve for the former DLI museum and art gallery at Aykley Heads?

- No views to present on future use of the building.

What would you like to see the Council take into account in making its recommendations?

- The requirements of the accreditation scheme. Ensuring that the History Centre is open regularly and there is good access. That the permanent collections are on display and that collections not on display are also made

accessible on demand. Development of the offer to schools and touring as appropriate.

- The DLI building also housed a gallery for the visual arts. Over the years its exhibition programme was exceptional with some high profile artists as well as interesting younger artists and some inspiring curatorial interpretation. Although the space was small the programme was distinctive in a region which has a number of larger visual arts institutions. It has been a miss. Whilst there are opportunities elsewhere in the county to encounter contemporary visual art perhaps there is still a need in the city centre for something similar to contribute to the overall cultural offer the county makes.

Nicholas Baumfield
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