

**JOINT COMMITTEE FOR THE NORTH OF ENGLAND  
OPEN-AIR MUSEUM**

At a Meeting of the **Beamish Joint Committee** held in the Collections Study Room -  
Beamish Museum, Beamish on **Friday 14 January 2011 at 11.00 am**

**Present:**

**Councillor D A Marshall (Chairman)**

**Members of the Committee:**

Councillors J Bailey, D Boyes, C Carr, P May, J Shuttleworth, L Thomson and D Stoker (Durham County Council), Callender, Goldsworthy and Green (Gateshead MBC), Mortimer (North Tyneside MBC), Gibson (South Tyneside MBC) and Bell and Walker (Sunderland City Council)

**Co-opted Members:**

*Friends* – Mr A Ashburner

**Apologies:**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Blakey, Farry, Gittins, Iveson, Marshall, Naylor, Todd, Wilkinson, Wilson, Wright (Durham County Council) Dixon, Kerr, Maxwell (South Tyneside MBC), Errington, Foster, Kelly, Richardson, J B Scott, J Scott, Speding, Wilson (Sunderland City Council), Mr Dix (Friends) and Mrs Stewart, Mr Gray and Mrs Hunter (Development Trust)

**1 Minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2010.**

The minutes of the meetings held on 12 November 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**2 Museum Update**

The Joint Committee received a report from the Museum Director giving an update on Museum business (for copy see file of Minutes).

*Performance* – The Museum had been affected by the poor weather in November and December but had maintained a healthy level of visitor numbers, with the actual year to date figure showing 413,595. The revised year to date budget figure should read £413,000 and not £329,000 as amended in October 2010.

*MLA/Renaissance* – a plan had been submitted outlining projects for financial support. The Museum Director pointed out that if funding continues to decrease frontline services will be affected.

*HLF Stage 1 approval* – final decision to be given in March 2011.

*Regional Resource Centre* – working with Tyne & Wear Archives and Museums on how to present items in the store to make it part of the visitor experience. Staffing and equipment costs are being funded from HLF. £65,000 is required from the Capital Development Reserve to meet capital costs relating to the construction of new visitor access routes to the open store in the Regional Resource Centre and the construction of collections stores at the Regional Museums Store.

**Resolved:-**

That section 4 of the report and the proposal to allocate funding totalling £65,000 from the Capital Development Reserve to support costs associated with the creation of an Open Collections Store at the Regional Resource Centre be approved.

**3 Annual Audit Letter**

The Joint Committee received the Annual Audit Letter for 2009/10 (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Audit Commission commented that good arrangements are in place showing good working between officers at Sunderland City Council and the Museum.

The Chairman thanked all staff involved in the work carried out in relation to the Audit.

**4 Exclusion of the Public**

**Resolved:**

That under Section 100 A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the said Act.

**5 Business and Operational Improvement Plan Capital Project Progress Report**

The Committee received a report of the Museum Director detailing variations and changes to the Capital Programme of the Business and Operational Improvement Plan (for copy see file of Minutes).

Members were updated on the executive summary, capital cost plan, funding profile and summary of the capital development programme.

**Resolved**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.