

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

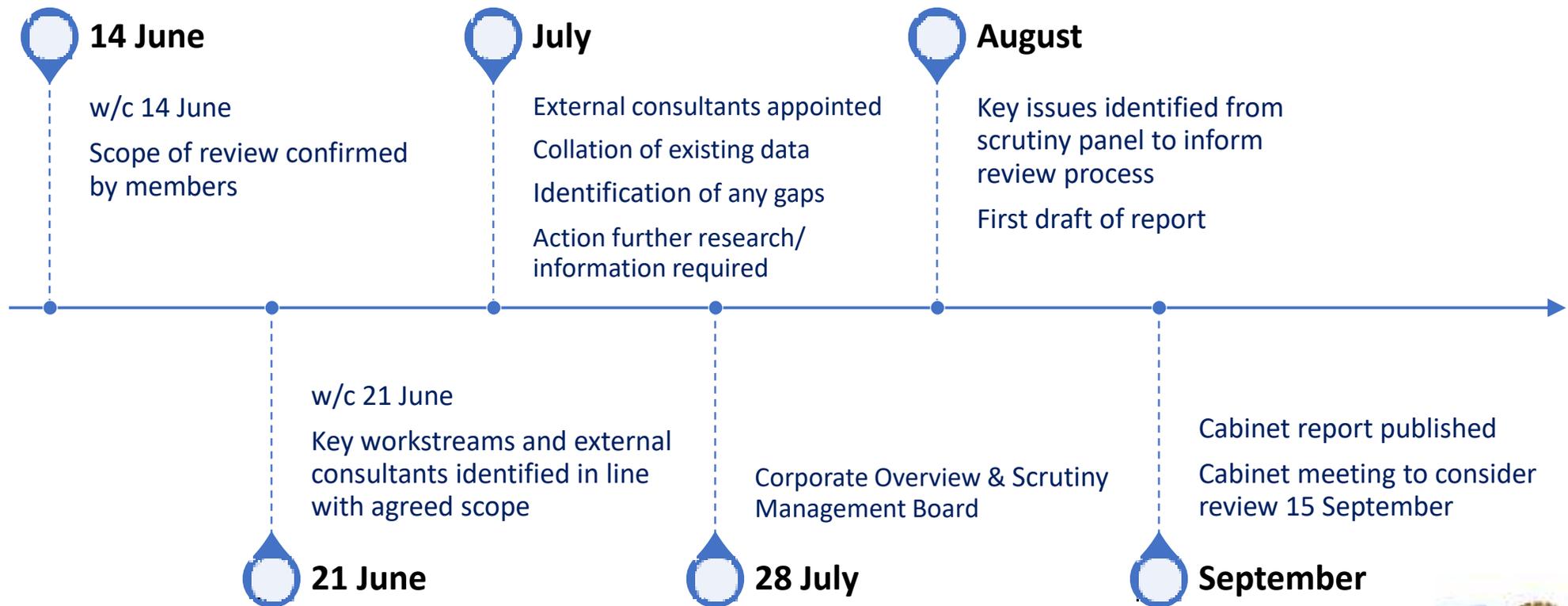
1.2 Making the Assessment

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

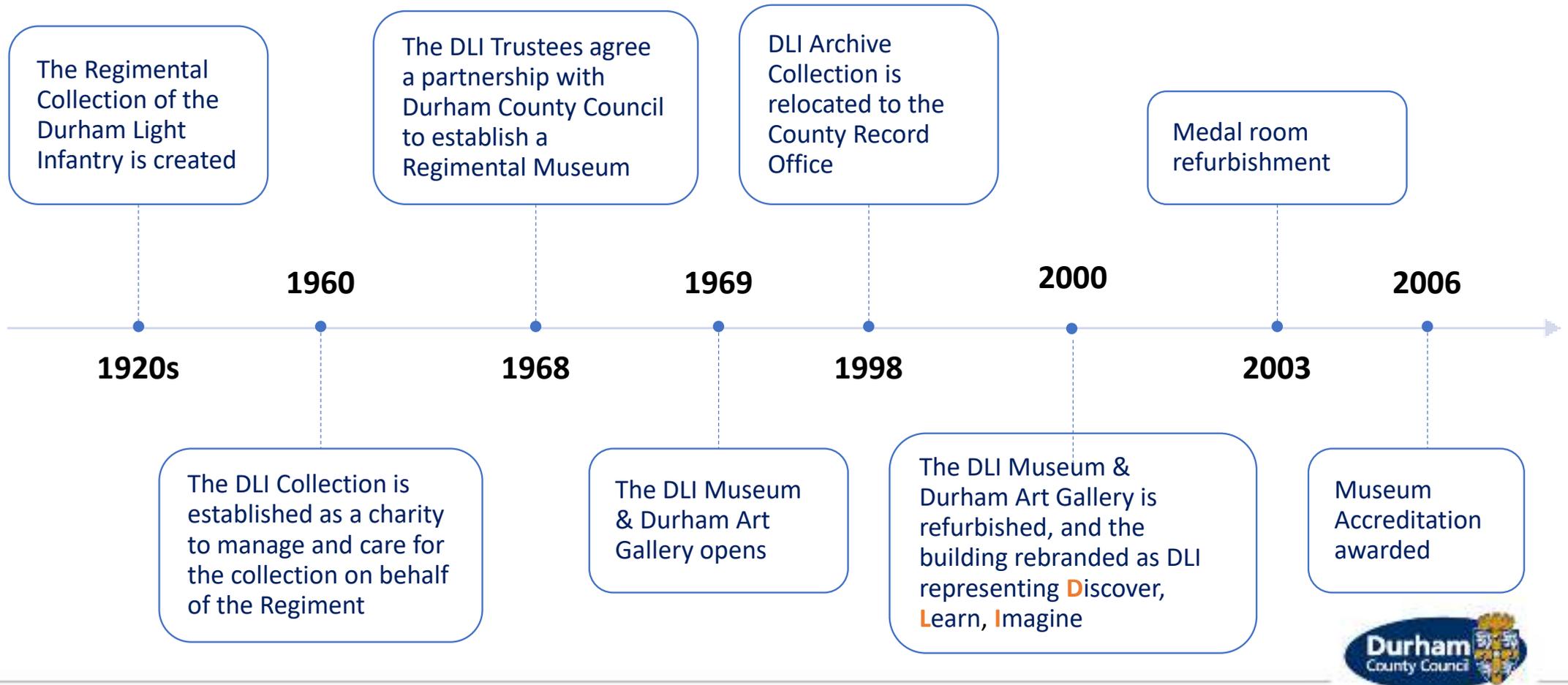


2. Context and history of the previous decisions regarding the DLI museum, collection and archive



Photographs of objects and archive from the DLI collection

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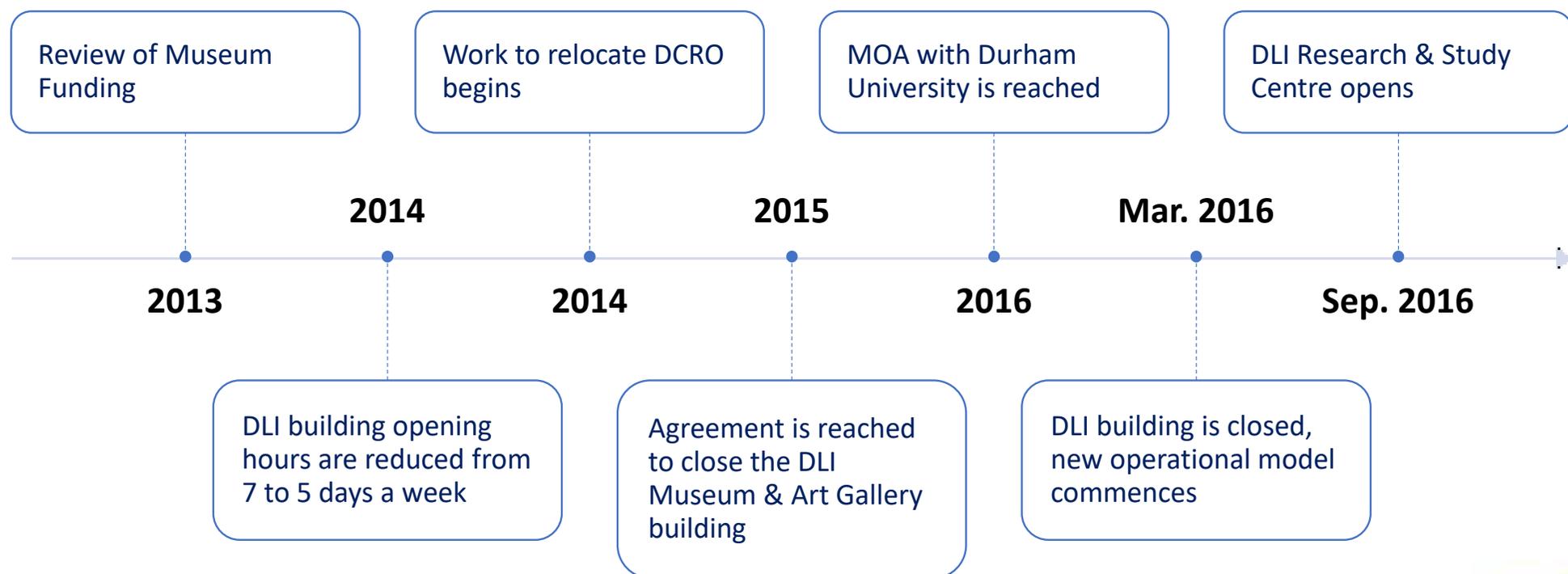


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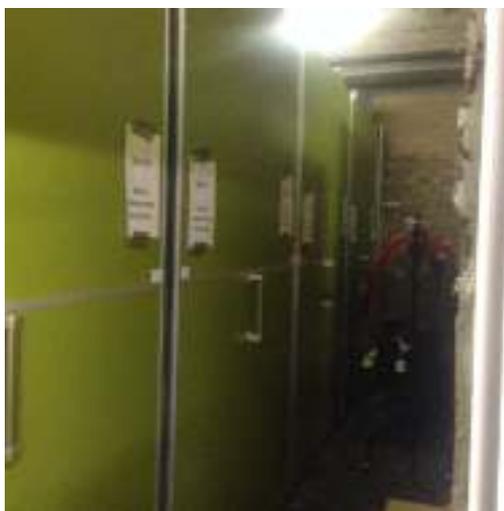


Photographs of the DLI Museum & Durham Art Gallery following refurbishment in 2000

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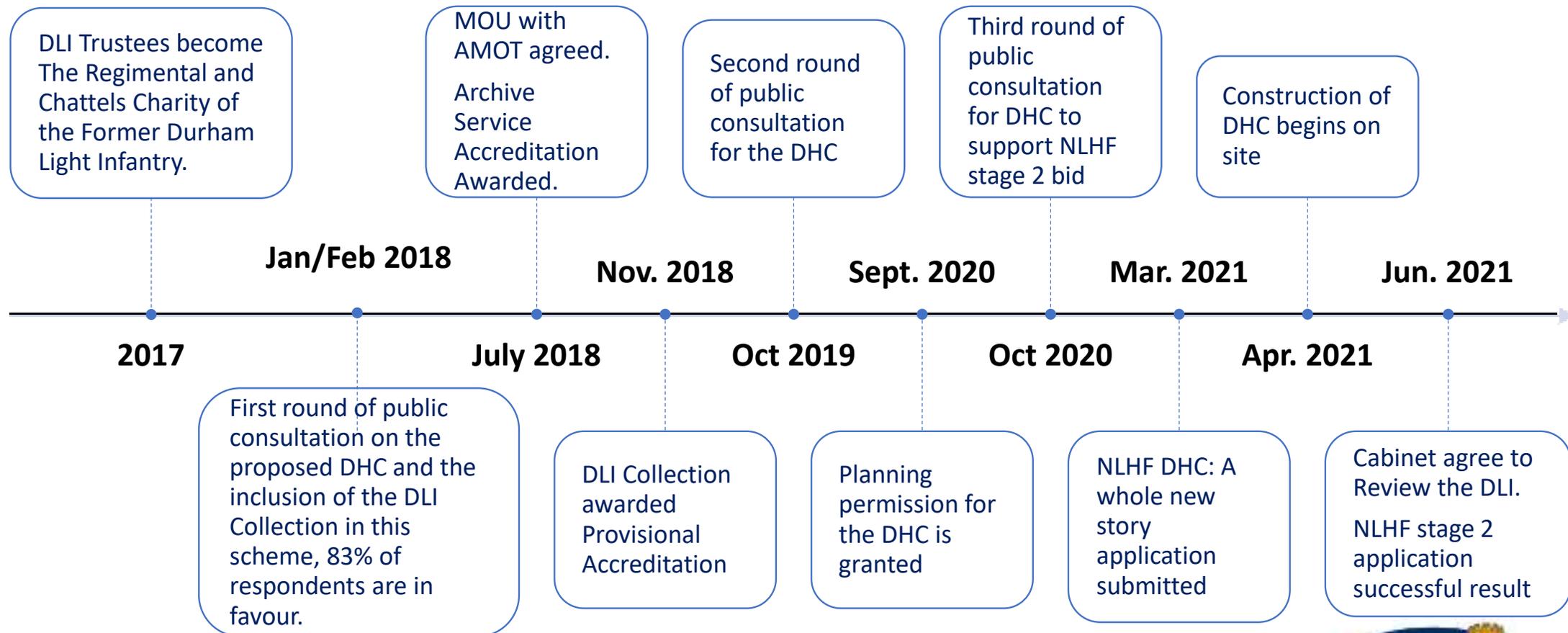
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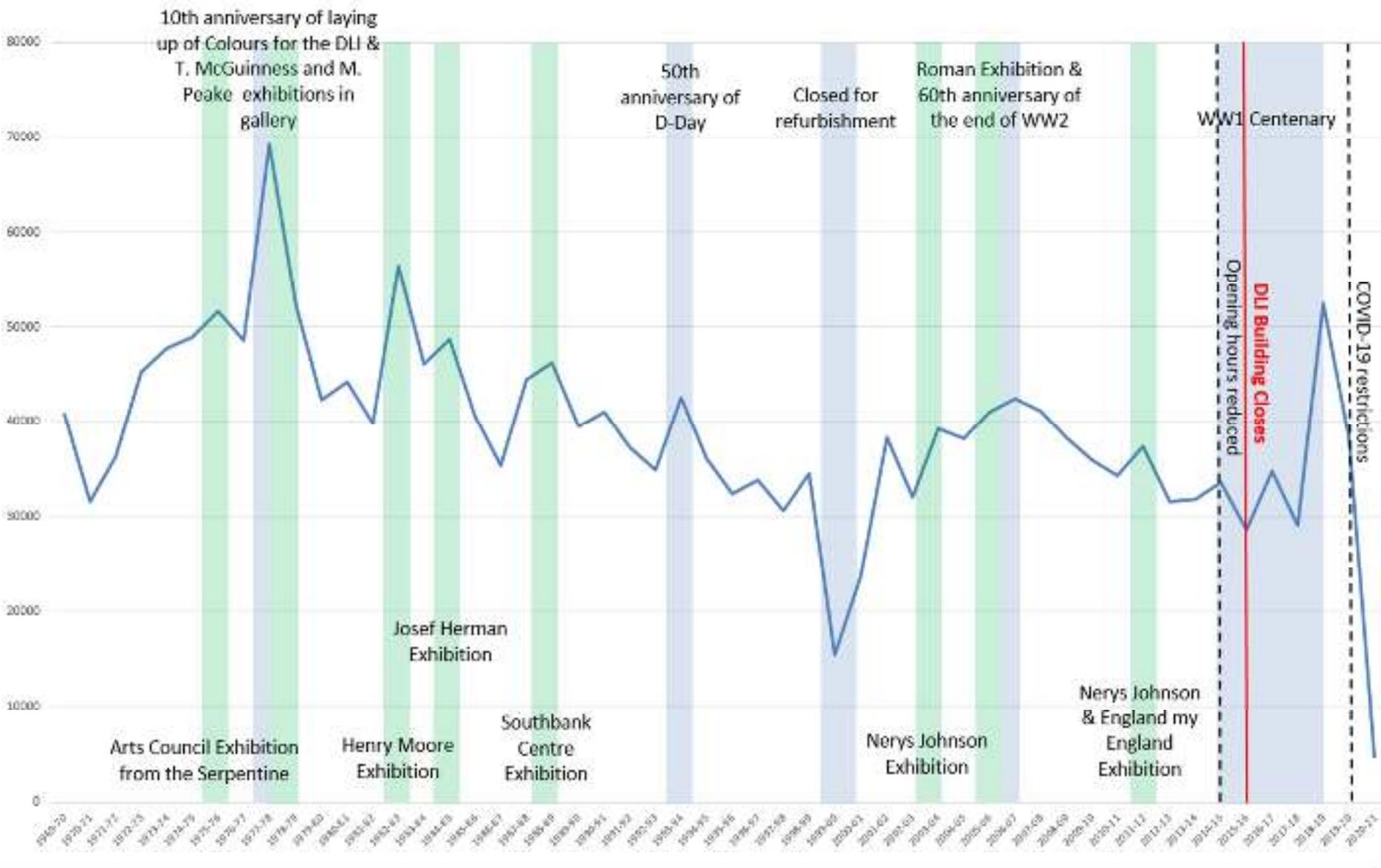


- Space given over to collection storage (43m²) was inadequate for the size of the collection
- Collection stores did not meet British Standard 5454 (now BS4971.2017) for the care of heritage collections

Photographs of the DLI Collection stores 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

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