



PART A:	MATTERS DEALT WITH UNDER DELEGATED POWERS
REPORT TO:	POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
DATE:	10 FEBRUARY 2011
REPORT OF THE:	HEAD OF ECONOMY AND HOUSING JULIAN RUDD
TITLE OF REPORT:	THE HARRISON COLLECTION AT RYEDALE FOLK MUSEUM
WARDS AFFECTED:	DALES (DIRECTLY), ALL (INDIRECTLY)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek confirmation of Members' support for the project, having considered the revised phasing arrangements now proposed.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members note the revised phasing arrangements and confirm their continued financial support for the Harrison Collection project at Ryedale Folk Museum, based on a £194K contribution to Phase 1a of the High Barn scheme and £36K to Phase 1b.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 No additional funding is being requested but the approach to delivering the proposed scheme has changed. Members are therefore being requested to support the revised approach as outlined in this report.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 4.1 The significant risk is that the Museum is not ultimately able to deliver the full scheme towards which the Council has approved a capital contribution. It is, however, considered that this risk is outweighed by the potential risk of losing the funding that is already approved from other sources, should the Museum wait to commence works until the full funding package is secured, with the consequent risk of losing the opportunity to secure the Harrison Collection for the Museum and for Ryedale as a whole. The detailed risk matrix is at annex A.

REPORT

5.0 BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

- 5.1 Policy and Resources, at its meeting on 2 October 2008 (Minute 277), approved a capital allocation of £250k to support the project to house the Harrison Collection at the Ryedale Folk Museum ('the Museum'). Some of the background to this meeting is repeated below to remind Members of the national significance of this collection.
- 5.2 £20k of the Council's contribution has been spent on development of the project in 2009/10, matched to a £99k grant from HLF, leaving £230k of the Council's contribution going forward.
- 5.3 The Museum was offered a bequest of over 10,000 artefacts worth in excess of £1m, although of irreplaceable value in social terms. This collection, amassed over 50 years by two Ryedale residents, Edward and Richard Harrison, was the subject of "Inside Out" on BBC1 where Eric Knowles (Antiques Roadshow) described it as a "breathtaking collection" and "jaw-dropping stuff". It is currently uncatalogued and inappropriately stored, leaving it vulnerable to deterioration and damage, and requires a large space for storage and display which is currently unavailable at the museum.
- 5.4 The Harrison Collection has been assessed by heritage professionals who concluded that "There are around 800 or 900 objects that are of major national significance, many unique, and the rest one of only a handful of known examples...The collection compares with and can stand alongside any major national museum collection." The Harrisons want the collection to stay in Ryedale for public benefit, and work is continuing to transfer the ownership of the collection to the Folk Museum. It is a truly eclectic, eccentric collection and very much in the spirit and tradition of the early collectors whose work is the basis of our major museums today.
- 5.5 It is imperative that the collection is kept intact and in Ryedale – Eric Knowles expressed his surprise that the collection had not been offered to a national museum. This will only be possible if the Museum is able to raise the required funds within an acceptable timescale and the Museum is asking for help from a variety of sources.
- 5.6 Since the Policy and Resources Committee in October 2008 the Ryedale Folk Museum have been working to secure the remainder of the funding that would enable the scheme to go ahead as previously reported.

6.0 POLICY CONTEXT

- 6.1 The project contributes directly towards the priority activity 'Improving the cultural offer in Ryedale' as identified in the Council Plan 2009-13, under Aim 4 'To have active communities where everyone feels welcome and safe'
- 6.2 It also contributes to:
- i. the two over-arching aims of the York and North Yorkshire Cultural Partnership 2009 – 2014 Strategy - "raise participation in regular volunteering" and "increase visitor spend by 5%" but significantly to the following 2 priorities:
 - Priority 1 : celebrating the culture of York and North Yorkshire and
 - Priority 4: Experiencing culture in communities

- ii. Yorkshire Forward – a Strategic Framework for the Visitor Economy (Yorkshire Forward 2005): Increase the value of tourism earnings by 5% per-annum; achieve growth in the visitor economy consistent with the principles of sustainable development; achieve increases in visitor satisfaction by improving quality of place and quality of product
- iii. Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Economic Strategy 2006 – 2015: The region will deliver high quality physical development that supports urban and rural renaissance, helps our environmental goals, and builds on the distinctive assets of our cities and towns

7.0 REPORT DETAILS

- 7.1 The Museum has been successful, despite the difficult economic climate, in securing a significant level of funding towards the project from a range of sources, including the Council, various charitable trusts, and the North York Moors Coast and Hills LEADER programme. The current level of funding secured is £560k of which £72k is earmarked for the educational facility aspect of the build. The total cost of the project as originally proposed is £2.4m.
- 7.2 In addition, funding has been obtained from the Pilgrim Trust for a Harrison Collection Curator. David Stockdale is now in post and is working full time on the project.
- 7.3 During this period the museum has been named as one of 4 *national* “Engagement at the Heart” museums after a rigorous research process on behalf of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation. PHF has made a commitment for significant ongoing financial support for these museums. The Foundation is giving the Museum an annual grant from 2011 for 3 years to support its work and develop its practice further, including acting as a centre to teach best practice to other organisations in the sector.
- 7.4 Two of the major funding sources that the Museum had hoped would be able to contribute significant amounts towards the Harrison project have unfortunately proved difficult to access. The Museum had hoped to secure approximately £1m from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and a further £370k from the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) administered by Yorkshire Forward.
- 7.5 The application process and communication with HLF has not proved at all straightforward and it has been mutually agreed that the 2008-10 application (based on initial plans to buy the Barn Hotel to house the collection, but now superseded by plans to convert and extend the High Barn) should be ‘timed out’ to allow a new application to be submitted. A plan of the site is located in Annex B.
- 7.6 The availability of RDPE funding has been significantly reduced following recent Government budget cuts and indications from Yorkshire Forward are that it will not be possible to fund the scheme to the level originally indicated.
- 7.7 The Museum intend to submit a new application to HLF based on the current project proposals and also to apply for as much RDPE funding as possible, however, this will take time. In both cases the funders have indicated that funds would not be available until well into 2011-2012 at the earliest. This means that the Museum might lose other earmarked funding while these applications are in process. The Museum is therefore keen to ensure that the funding that has already been secured is not placed at risk by continuing to delay project commencement unnecessarily. There is also the power of having the collection on site and accessible to the public which will make it easier to augment the already immensely successful local fund-raising drive.

- 7.8 As such the Museum has worked with its architects, Purcell Miller Tritton, to develop an effective phased approach to the project (as shown on the plan attached at Annex B). This approach splits the project up into the following phases:

Phase 1a

- Convert the existing High Barn to become the planned, high-quality exhibition space for the Harrison Collection (offering immediate access to 50% of the exhibition space specified in the original plan and allowing volunteers to begin cataloguing work straight away)
- Small extension to High Barn to become a Community Archive / Library
- Convert the existing tractor store as storage for the Harrison Collection utilising plans which allow the public to view items in the store
- Construct the boiler house and install services for the entire build

Phase 1b

- New-build extension to the High Barn to provide a larger exhibition space (delivering the remaining 50% of the exhibition space), including changing exhibitions, allowing significantly more of the Harrison Collection to be on show

Phase 2

- Major new-build Learning Space

- 7.9 Phase 1a and 1b are considered to be two phases of a single coherent project which ideally would be delivered as a single phase, but which, given funding considerations, can be split into two phases and delivered separately. Phase 2 is effectively considered a 'stand alone' phase that can be delivered as and when the required funding becomes available.
- 7.10 The cost of Phase 1a is estimated as being approximately £640k although a firm price will not be known until tenders have been received and evaluated. The Museum has now secured £488k of immediately useable funding (including £194k of the Council's contribution), which together with £152k that the Museum plan to raise through a short-term fundraising programme, should be sufficient to complete Phase 1a. Subject to Member approval of this approach, the Museum proposes to start construction of this phase in Spring 2011.
- 7.11 In order to deliver Phase 1a, the Museum will require £194k (or 78%) of the Council's overall contribution to be committed to this phase (together with funding from charitable trusts and LEADER). This approach carries with it the risk to the Council that Phase 1b does not ultimately get built, which would result in smaller and significantly less flexible exhibition space. However, the Museum propose to hold back spending the remaining £36k of the Council's overall contribution to match against funds currently applied for later phases of the Project, thus partially mitigating this risk.
- 7.12 The proposed approach, critically, avoids the greater risk of losing the funding that has already been secured towards the project, which could be a real risk if the Museum continues to wait until the whole funding package is in place. It enables the Museum to make a start on implementing their plans and to have a significant amount of the collection on display, whilst retaining enough of an incentive and business justification for funders (e.g. HLF and RDPE) to be willing to support implementation of Phase 1b. Most significantly it will enable the Museum to secure possession of the Harrison Collection and avoid the risk of this being lost out of the District.

Julian Rudd
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Background Papers:

'The Harrison Collection at Ryedale Museum' report and minutes, 2 October 2008 P&R Committee

Background Papers are available for inspection at:

<http://democracy.ryedale.gov.uk/uuCoverPage.aspx?bcr=1>