

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF POLICY, PLANNING AND CORPORATE
SERVICES****NATIONAL CIVIL WAR CENTRE, NEWARK****Purpose of the Report**

1. The County Council meeting on 28 February 2013 approved an allocation of £1 million for a Civil War Museum in Newark as part of the Council's Capital Programme 2013/14 to 2016/17. The purpose of this report is to provide Committee with details of this initiative and to seek approval to put in place a legal agreement with Newark and Sherwood District Council (NSDC) with regard to this capital contribution.

Information and Advice

2. The proposal is to create a new museum and Civil War Centre in Newark that will be of national importance as a centre for learning about the English Civil War of 1642 - 46. The proposal will transform a Grade II listed former school building on Appletongate, Newark, into a modern museum and learning centre which will showcase the area's pivotal role in the Civil War. The majority of the funding needed for the proposal has already been secured from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).
3. Two previous museums in Newark, at Millgate and at the Gilstrap Centre, will be brought into a single site in the Old Magnus Building. This building contains some of the most significant heritage architecture in Newark. There are many eras of architectural heritage within its walls, from a remarkable Tudor school hall, to Georgian and Victorian classrooms. As part of the proposals, historical features of the building such as historic graffiti will be conserved, displayed and interpreted for visitors.
4. Within the building several high-quality exhibition galleries will be created which will enable more historical artefacts to be displayed and interpreted. For example, the iron-age Newark Torc will be displayed in the centre - the first time it will be displayed in Nottinghamshire after previously being loaned to the British Museum in London. As well as the Civil War information, there will also be exhibition galleries focusing on the local history of towns and villages of the area. Facilities will include learning and event space as well as a café and community space. There will be an events programme and a dedicated learning space for school groups. The museum will be able to cater for more school visits and provide more varied activities for children.
5. Research during the development stage showed that there was a unique opportunity for the new museum to become a National Civil War Centre. Within England, many museums,

historic houses and battlefield sites tell part of the English Civil War story, but no single place focuses on Civil War history. Newark played an important role in the first civil war as a siege town. King Charles, Queen Henrietta Maria and Prince Rupert were all in Newark at times during the war and King Charles surrendered to the Scots at Kelham in 1646. Newark has unique archives and collections which make it ideally placed to tell the national story. This was an important determining factor in the HLF's financial support for the project.

6. The centre is expected to attract 40,850 visitors each year by providing a museum with national interest through interpretation of civil war history. A further 17,000 people will be involved annually in the events and activities programme. Such a programme could include living history days, education events for schools, and academic conferences. The project already has involvement by History Departments from a range of Universities with an interest in the English Civil War.
7. According to Visit Britain figures, 40,850 visitors to the centre would bring £1,335,795 tourist spend to the area, thereby creating 33 jobs. The challenge is to enhance and extend the reach of the proposals to ensure that they maximise the potential impact within Nottinghamshire, both from a point of view of promoting local heritage and history, and providing economic impact through tourism development.
8. It is envisaged that the National Civil War Centre would become a central point for interpretation of the Civil War in the wider community, with links to related sites of historic interest around Newark, the county and even wider, in a national context. There is scope to extend the interpretation of the Civil War to key sites around Nottinghamshire. The development of digital media will make the interpretation of the civil war story more widely accessible and help to spread the impact of increased visitor numbers across a wider area. Latest mobile technologies could be used to create a heritage trail for the visitor, linking not only to locations within Newark itself (such as the Queen's Sconce or Newark Castle) but also to other locations associated with the Civil War, for example in Southwell or Thurgarton. In this way, the benefits of the project will extend beyond the town of Newark itself, with the generation of additional heritage tourism opportunities supporting the wider visitor economy. An extension to the existing project is being developed to ensure that this wider impact is achieved.
9. The County Council sold the Old Magnus Buildings to Newark and Sherwood District Council (N&SDC) in 2004. A small museum operating out of the premises was closed in December 2004 while the museum provision in Newark was reviewed, and also in the light of repairs and adaptations needed to the building.
10. In 2010, HLF provided a development grant towards the costs of working up detailed proposals for a national civil war centre and museum in Newark. This funding enabled plans to be developed. A full application for HLF capital grant was subsequently submitted by NSDC with approval secured from HLF in May 2012. The proposed work will take two years to complete and it is anticipated that the new museum will open in September 2014. The project is now proceeding to implementation, an invitation to tender for the listed building refurbishment being advertised on 1 February 2013.
11. The project's total cost is £5.4million of which HLF will provide £3.5m, with £1.9m to be met from other sources. The business plan identifies that the £1.9m shortfall is underwritten by

Newark & Sherwood District Council who would have to raise this amount through prudential borrowing if other funding sources could not be secured.

12. Recognition of the importance of heritage in developing local identity and pride is contained in the County Council's Strategic Plan, 2010-14, where a priority is set "to create enhanced opportunities for citizens and visitors to take part in cultural activities". The importance of local heritage is also referenced in the County Council's Cultural Strategy 2011-21. Therefore when the County Council was approached for a contribution towards the £1.9m funding gap, to ensure that the partner funding requirements of the Heritage Lottery funding could be met, an allocation was proposed of £1million towards this in the Culture Committee Capital Programme 2013/14. As outlined in paragraph one of this report this contribution was subsequently agreed by full Council as part of the Council's Capital Programme 2013/14 to 2016/17.
13. Applications have also been made by NSDC to several charitable trusts. A local fundraising programme is being led by the Friends of Newark Civil War Centre group.
14. It is proposed that a legal agreement is now put in place between the County Council and NSDC with regard to the capital funding contribution of £1million. The agreement will outline the purpose of the contribution and set out the terms and conditions associated with the funding.

Other Options Considered

15. Do nothing – allow NSDC to proceed without putting a legal agreement in place. This would not ensure the County Council's interests were protected, e.g. the County Council might find difficulties in securing repayment of funds, in the event that the project was unable to proceed, or in obtaining appropriate acknowledgement of its support. Therefore this option is not recommended.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

16. Putting in place a legal agreement will ensure that the County Council's interests are protected as well as formalising its ongoing future involvement in project direction. The County Council has a lead role to play in supporting access to history and heritage, and in supporting the development of tourism in Nottinghamshire, as set out in the Notts County Council Cultural Strategy. Contributing to the development of this important, national resource will support these objectives.

Statutory and Policy Implications

17. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Implications for Service Users

18. The eventual museum will offer an opportunity for the residents of Nottinghamshire to learn more about local and national history. It will have particular implications for school children studying local history or the English Civil War in school.

Financial Implications

19. The financial implications are contained within Paragraph 12, with the £1m contribution being funded via Culture Committee capital allocation for 2013/14.

Ways of Working Implications

20. There are no Ways of Working implications for the County Council. The museum will be operated by Newark and Sherwood District Council, who will continue to be the building owner.

Equality Implications

21. The proposals for the National Civil War Centre have been designed to be accessible to all members of the community. Full disabled access will be provided. Events and activities programmes will reach out to a range of audiences including school children.

Crime and Disorder Implications

22. During opening hours, the museum will be staffed and monitored to ensure the protection of both the fabric of the building and its exhibits. Outside of opening times, appropriate security measures will be put in place.

Safeguarding of Children Implications

23. The National Civil War Centre and museum will incorporate facilities for children, in the form of special interpretation of items, and also provision of space for educational use. Children visiting the centre would usually be accompanied either by carers or responsible staff e.g. teachers. As is usual practice, any museum staff involved in delivery of services directly to groups of children would need to be checked by the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Human Resources Implications

24. There are no human resource implications for the County Council. Staffing and operation of the National Civil War Centre once complete will be a matter for Newark and Sherwood District Council.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

25. The National Civil War centre will reuse an existing Grade II listed building, ensuring its long term conservation and sustainability. The modernisation of the building will include new heating and lighting systems involving energy efficiency measures in order to limit negative environmental impacts, consistent with environmental policies both of Nottinghamshire County Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) It is recommended that Committee:
 - i) note the work underway to develop a National Civil War Centre at Newark
 - ii) delegate approval to the Corporate Director of Policy, Planning and Corporate Services to put in place a legal agreement with NSDC setting out the terms and conditions of the council's contribution of £1 million towards the capital costs of the National Civil War Centre.

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For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (SLB 13/03/2013)

26. Culture Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report.

Financial Comments (SEM 12/03/13)

27. The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

28. Newark and Sherwood District Council, Business Plan and Evaluation Strategy, Old Magnus Buildings, 2011
29. Cultural Strategy for Nottinghamshire - Nottinghamshire County Council, December 2011
30. Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

31. All