

### JOINT MUSEUMS COMMITTEE 21 JUNE 2017

### HARTLEBURY PROJECT UPDATE

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#### Recommendation

1. **The Museums General Manager recommends that the progress made towards the completion of the Hartlebury Project be noted.**

#### Background

2. The County Council has been working in partnership with Hartlebury Castle Preservation Trust (HCPT) to secure the future of Hartlebury Castle. The principle behind the scheme is that HCPT, Worcestershire County Council and Museums Worcestershire will make the Castle, Hurd Library, collections of the Museum and Castle, as well as the Gardens, into an integrated visitor destination, that will benefit the local area and serve as a major attraction for visitors from around the UK and beyond. The scheme is intended to forge a sustainable and viable future for the County Museum as part of a wider offer.

3. The County Council entered into management and funding agreements in May 2017 to confirm the contribution of the Council and Museums Worcestershire, as the shared service operating the museum service on part of the site. The principles of these agreements were approved by this committee in February 2015. The agreements also include an operational schedule to establish the details of the services to be provided – this will be subject to an annual review and may require further decisions by the joint committee in due course. In addition the impact of the funding agreement will need to be assessed as part of the review of hosting, which features elsewhere on this agenda.

4. Work has now commenced on site to complete the first phase of the project and recent progress includes:

- Completion of a new car park for visitors
- Creation of an improved access road to the overflow car park
- Completion of a Bat House
- Work on a new café in the former museum workshop is underway
- The Bishops House scaffolding has been erected for repairs to external elevations, stonework and windows.
- Preparatory work to transform the Long Gallery into a new exhibition space is in progress
- Tree works have been completed to open up the views to the rear of the property.

5. Due to construction work on site it was not possible to use Hartlebury as the venue for this annual meeting; a tour of the property to view developments will be arranged at a future date.

## **Contact Points**

### County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

### Specific Contact Points for this report

Iain Rutherford

Tel: 01905 361821

Email: [irutherford@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:irutherford@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## **Background Papers**

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Museums General Manager) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda papers and Minutes of the Joint Museums Committee on 27 February 2015