

4. COMMANDERY DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Recommendation

1. The Museums General Manager recommends that:

- a) the draft proposals for investment at the Commandery be reviewed: and**
- b) Consideration be given to recommending to the City Council on how best to proceed to the next stage of realisation.**

Background Information

2. In 2012/13 Museums Worcestershire commissioned a significant body of research (funded by Arts Council England) into the potential of the English Civil War heritage to provide an overarching theme for the Commandery as a visitor destination. The research looked at the current visitor experience at the historic site from the perspective of existing and future visitors, evaluated pilot interpretation with these audiences, identified potential future markets for a Civil War product and quantified the wider Civil War history that exists in Worcester. Reports were presented at a Civic Presentation in April 2014.
3. In June 2014 the Joint Committee received a report on a four phase programme of development at the Commandery, following discussions with funding bodies including the Heritage Lottery Fund. (Minute no. 184 refers) An application to the HLF Our Heritage Fund was required for the first phase of this work which would see the reintroduction of the English Civil War as a theme in a significant section of the building.
4. Before this bid could be developed and submitted, the City Council requested a further study be completed, in the light of additional capital funds available internally. Such investment would clearly have a bearing on the scope and scale of the development programme.
5. On behalf of the City Council, Museums Worcestershire appointed the DCA team to work on proposals for the Commandery in the light of this new funding, supported by architects, exhibition designers and other specialists. The study will address display and interpretation, the visitor experience, building environment and services and links with other cultural developments in the immediate vicinity.

6. Draft proposals will be presented to Joint Committee members at the meeting, with a formal report to be presented to the City Council Cabinet to follow.

Contact Points

Specific Contact Point for this report:

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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.

The Commandery phases of development 2014-19 outline

Agenda papers and Minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2014