

10. HARTLEBURY OPERATIONS AND FUNDING

Recommendation

1. The Museums General Manager recommends that the progress made by the Hartlebury Castle Preservation Trust in securing the Hartlebury estate and developing the next stage of the project be noted.

Background Information

2. In November 2014, the Joint Committee received a report that the Hartlebury Castle Preservation Trust (HCPT) had been awarded a grant of £4.97 million by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) following the development phase. (Minute no. 203 refers)

3. The key elements of the application funded by HLF are:

- To purchase the freehold of Hartlebury Castle and its estate
- To improve facilities to better share the Castle, Hurd Library, collections of the County Museum and the Castle; and Gardens with existing and new visitors
- To improve and increase interpretation of Hartlebury, the Hurd Library and Worcestershire through the creation of new displays
- To create opportunities for learning, participation and heritage skills training
- To provide volunteer opportunities for children and adults
- To involve local communities and specialists in the site's future
- To develop a sustainable business plan to manage Hartlebury.

3. The grant enabled HCPT in March of this year to acquire the freehold of Hartlebury Castle with its surrounding acres of parkland. The intention of the project is that HCPT, Worcestershire County Council and Museums Worcestershire will make the Castle, Hurd Library, collections of the Museum and Castle, as well as 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.

4. The development of a new business and financial model is an integral part of the project. At the last meeting of the Joint Committee, members requested an update on progress and details of this are provided in an exempt report. (Minute no. 236 refers)

Supporting Information

Contact Points

Background Papers

5. Please note that the Appendix contains exempt information (on salmon pages) and should members wish to discuss the information included in the Appendix they would need to consider passing the appropriate resolution and moving into exempt session.

- **Appendix – Exempt information (salmon pages)**

Specific Contact Point for this report:

Iain Rutherford, Museums General Manager
(01905) 361827/361821

Email: IRutherford@worcestershire.gov.uk

In the opinion of 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 meeting on 10 June 2015