

Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director - Place

Report to:	Executive
Date:	03 November 2020
Subject:	Future of the Heritage Service in Lincolnshire
Decision Reference:	I020961
Key decision?	No

Summary:

This report provides a vision for heritage services in Greater Lincolnshire. The report recognises the cultural importance of the area from the Humber to the Wash, setting out a plan to increase engagement and the chance for everyone to see and explore the great things about that area. In this report we use the term "county" to refer to this wider area.

Focusing on six strands, core to this vision is the drive to unlock the potential of Greater Lincolnshire's rich heritage in every way possible, enhancing our great spaces for residents and visitors to make great memories, and securing the finance to ensure our rich past is fit for the future:

- Having a strong voice at a national level
- Embracing Greater Lincolnshire as a whole, making heritage and art available to all
- Telling the story of the county differently
- Securing the investment the county deserves
- Making memories county-wide in super-sites across Greater Lincolnshire
- Working with partners to deliver the best quality, immersive art and culture

Greater Lincolnshire enjoys a rich and varied heritage, from the earliest evidence of humankind to the role played by the RAF in the twentieth Century and across a wealth of industries. From farming and fishing to manufacturing and science, technology and engineering - in the past, the present and looking to the future, Greater Lincolnshire's cultural heritage is of international importance.

These stories come from a vast collection of artefacts, archives and venues, both within the natural and built environment, which if brought together, would boost economic growth, tourism, inward investment and inward migration of high quality business and commerce across Greater Lincolnshire.

Recommendation(s):

That the plans to deliver a wider vision for heritage services for the whole of Greater Lincolnshire be approved.

Alternatives Considered:

Heritage will continue to be delivered without a vision for the whole of the Greater Lincolnshire area and without the potential that an overarching narrative and positive partnership would bring.

Reasons for Recommendation:

To maximise the potential for Greater Lincolnshire's rich heritage.

1. Background

This report sets out a vision for heritage services in Greater Lincolnshire, (the areas of Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council) developing a number of super-sites as centres of excellence, accessible by residents of Greater Lincolnshire and tourists alike - visiting coast, countryside and urban areas.

1.1 Having a strong voice at a national level

By bringing together the whole of Greater Lincolnshire, we will have a strong enough voice to ensure that we are heard at a national level. This will ensure we can influence decisions, leverage funding and investment, bring blockbuster exhibitions and events into the county, work with national institutions and the best cultural organisations in the nation and overseas.

Only by utilising all of our assets under a single vision will we fulfil the potential of a county whose cultural heritage has had such an influence on the world.

1.2 Embracing Lincolnshire as a whole, making heritage and art available to all

From humankind's earliest prehistoric settlements through the Roman, Saxon, Viking and medieval eras, through the Georgian and Victorian periods into the twentieth century and looking into the future, wool, farming, fishing, steel, manufacturing, tourism and the RAF have all played a large part in British and world history.

The legacy of that is a rich and varied collection of buildings, artefacts, archives and natural heritage which we have a responsibility to preserve but more importantly, make available for the enjoyment of residents and visitors now and in the future.

1.3 Telling the story of the county differently

Life doesn't stand still and we know we need to be creative.

It's a real benefit that the vast majority of Greater Lincolnshire assets/treasures are held in different places – by both public and private institutions – however, we know we need to work closer together to create a single narrative and strong identity which brings together our history and culture in an understandable, yet exciting way.

Together with our partners, we will work to create a vision and tell the story of our brilliant county, bringing together our culture and history in a unique way, creating demand and footfall at venues across the Greater Lincolnshire area.

This will be audience focused and agile, responding to changes in demand, and able to flex to take best advantage of digital engagement opportunities and technological developments.

1.4 Securing the investment the county deserves

We will work with our partners across Greater Lincolnshire to create a powerful and attractive offer, whilst respecting local themes including agriculture, manufacturing, fishing, politics, religion, mass tourism, science and technology. This enhanced heritage offer can be based around a few centres of excellence which would complement and enhance what is already held locally.

This will enable us to make a strong, coherent case for external funding, which is urgently needed to protect and enhance what we currently have and enable more of it to be on display to the public.

By bringing together partners across Greater Lincolnshire we will create a strong single cultural compact that is greater than the sum of its parts. A unified cultural offer which will have a national voice and enough critical mass to compete for funding and investment against areas that have traditionally triumphed over Greater Lincolnshire.

We will approach the partnership working in a different way, engaging with not just traditional heritage and cultural partners but with economic development and tourism partners, private companies and persons of importance and influence, educational institutions, technological leaders and innovators.

Further heritage investment will provide a real boost to economic growth, tourism, inward investment and inward migration of high quality business and commerce, truly making the whole of Greater Lincolnshire an even greater place to live, work, visit and study.

1.5 Making memories county-wide in super-sites across Lincolnshire

Building on the cultural enterprise and super-site model outlined in the Future of the Heritage Service Detailed Business Case, creating centres of excellence which can provide full days out to explore our heritage, and supporting community heritage, will bring together our aviation heritage, museums, art collections and archives in a number of well-placed sites across the Greater Lincolnshire area – enhancing what is already available locally.

1.6 Working with partners to deliver the best quality, immersive art and culture

We will continue to bring nationally recognised and world renowned art and cultural exhibitions and installations to our heritage attractions across the Greater Lincolnshire area – which will awe and inspire communities to challenge the norm, explore heritage in new ways and make new and long-lasting memories.

By bringing the varied culture of Greater Lincolnshire together into a powerful and attractive offer, whilst respecting all the different strands, ownership and direction, we can build on the strong sense of identity which already exists in our county whilst bringing more new and more visitors to Greater Lincolnshire.

2. Legal Issues:

Equality Act 2010

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.

- Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.

Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to tackle prejudice, and promote understanding.

Compliance with the duties in section 149 may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.

The duty cannot be delegated and must be discharged by the decision-maker. To discharge the statutory duty the decision-maker must analyse all the relevant material with the specific statutory obligations in mind. If a risk of adverse impact is identified consideration must be given to measures to avoid that impact as part of the decision making process.

Whilst an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has not been completed at this time, consideration has been made of the potential impact and the principle of the vision within this report is to increase and improve access to, and engagement, with the heritage of Greater Lincolnshire by unlocking its potential.

The outcomes would include making access to heritage both geographically easier by looking at Greater Lincolnshire as a whole and more appealing and accessible to visitors/tourists/students and migrant communities who are visiting or are new to Lincolnshire.

Any development of the super-site model by Lincolnshire County Council will be fully compliant with the Council's legal duties relating to the accessibility of its buildings.

The greater flexibility inherent in the cultural enterprise model to change displays and mount temporary exhibitions increases the potential to tell different stories including those that help advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations in relation to people with protected characteristics.

Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS)

The Council must have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Joint Health & Well Being Strategy (JHWS) in coming to a decision.

Whilst the impact of these proposals on the JSNA and JHWS is difficult to quantify there is research to assess the cost savings on NHS services due to the reduced likelihood of GP visits and psychotherapy services as a result of visits to museums,

galleries and heritage sites. The findings suggested that engagement with different forms of culture will deliver a different range of savings depending on the kind of visit that takes place. Increased engagement with heritage as a result of the outcomes from this vision would therefore have a positive impact.

Crime and Disorder

Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council must exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area and re-offending in its area.

The Heritage Service plays a crucial role in tackling social exclusion, contributing to regeneration, to promoting safer communities, encouraging healthier lifestyles, providing opportunities for voluntary and community activity and stimulating lifelong learning. The Heritage sector has a significant role to play in achieving this aspiration, by providing inspiring, engaging and educational experiences, promoting a sense of place for all who visit, live and work. Lincolnshire has a strong sense of place and its museums and heritage sites play an important part in helping residents and visitors alike to understand the deep roots of its cultural identity and its traditions, giving our visitors and non-visitors what they want and developing new activities which will encourage them to visit and return on a regular basis, whilst also creating a sense of place and helping deliver social cohesion.

3. Conclusion

4. Legal Comments:

The Council has the power to approve the vision set out in the report.

The decision is consistent with the Policy Framework and within the remit of the Executive.

5. Resource Comments:

Approval of the recommendation set out in this report has no direct financial or resourcing implications for the Council.

Delivery of heritage services is funded by the Cultural Services budget which is reviewed and approved as part of the annual budget setting process.

6. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes

c) Scrutiny Comments

This report will be considered by the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 27 October 2020. Any comments from the Committee will be presented to the Executive.

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

7. Background Papers

The following background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

Future of the Heritage Service – (Report and Decision of the Executive) 3 September 2019	https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=539
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