

Heritage, Leisure, Culture and Sport Scrutiny Commission

Abbey Pumping Station update

Date of Commission meeting: 13 June 2017

Lead executive decision maker:
Assistant Mayor for Heritage, Culture, Leisure and Sport

Report of the Director of Tourism, Culture and
Inward Investment



Useful Information:

- Ward(s) affected: All
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1. Summary

This report updates the developments planned for Abbey Pumping Station which were previously reported in January 2017 to Scrutiny. A presentation at the meeting will also include photographs showing work completed to date. An episode of the TV programme The Antiques Roadshow is due to be filmed at Abbey Pumping Station on June 15th 2017.

2. Recommendation(s) to scrutiny

The Heritage, Culture, Leisure and Sport Scrutiny Commission is recommended to note the contents of this report and provide any comment.

3. Supporting Information**1. Introduction**

This report provides an update on the investment of £500,000 which was agreed in January 2017 as a first stage of works to develop the site as a key visitor attraction. The works are intended to:

- Tidy, rationalise/refine and rearrange the industrial collections both within the Transport Shed and at our temporary store.
- Better display the transport collection.
- Enhance the grounds, including introducing small play interactives to create a vibrant attractive external space for visitors.
- Upgrade displays and improve presentation within the Museum.
- Develop design ideas and a funding strategy for a more comprehensive scheme.

The costs to Leicester City Council will be as follows:

Museum and Pump House	£75,000
Enhance Grounds	£160,000
Rationalise Collections and Display	£130,000
Transport Shed Works	£65,000
Design Development	£70,000
TOTAL	£500,000

2. Background

With around 55,000 visitors each year, Abbey Pumping Station is one of the most visited museums in Leicester. Its primary attraction is the historic engine house, with its four working beam engines, built by Gimsons of Leicester, surrounded by its original outbuildings.

Opened in 1891, beside the River Soar, it pumped Leicester's sewage to new treatment works at Beaumont Leys. The ornate building and beautifully decorated beam engines were a demonstration of the great civic pride in this public health achievement. The pumping station closed in 1964 and opened as a museum of science and industry ten years later.

The museum showcases aspects of Leicester's historic industries, and tells the story of how clean water transformed everyday life. The site also houses most of the city's transport collection, which is taken out of store on event days when the beam engines are often in steam and the site's original light railway is in operation giving rides.

These events are supported by Leicester Museums Technology Association, a dedicated and active volunteer group which also assists with conservation work.

The site recently received Arts Council funding that enabled the installation of a 180 seater marquee which was completed at the end of last year. It will support both the events and income generation at the site.

A detailed breakdown of the work programme for each of the main strands is summarised in the table below.

	By June 17	July 17 – Mar 18	Apr 18 – Mar 19
1. Tidy, rationalise/refine and rearrange the industrial collections both within the Transport Shed and at our temporary store.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>A number of objects have already been identified for disposal</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Further disposal of unrequired objects.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Complete rationalisation</i> ➤ <i>Relocation of rationalised collections from Lower Willow Street store to Euston Street store.</i>
2. Better display the transport collection .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>This will follow on from the collections rationalisation work as space needs to be created in the first instance.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Commence creation of interpretation scheme and panels for display of vehicles.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Complete cement base in transport shed.</i> ➤ <i>Remove mezzanine floor.</i> ➤ <i>Deliver interpretation panels for display of vehicles.</i>
3. Enhance the grounds, including introducing small play interactives to create a vibrant attractive external space for visitors.	<p><i>The following has been completed for the Antique Roadshow on the 15th June:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Partial redecoration of exterior paintwork.</i> ➤ <i>Painting of the Steam Shovel.(funded separately)</i> ➤ <i>Creation of a compound decorated with feature panels for storage of volunteer group materials.</i> ➤ <i>Installation of photographed panels on the Severn Trent Building windows.</i> ➤ <i>Installation of new picket fence railings.</i> ➤ <i>Initial landscaping work including new turf in areas across the site and gravel around the Steam Shovel.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Draw up and implement full plan for grounds improvement.</i> ➤ <i>To be planned alongside the Local Growth Fund scheme to develop the former John Ellis site as the new Leicester University ‘Space Park’)</i> ➤ <i>Update interpretation within the grounds.</i> ➤ <i>Open up sightlines from the river, Corporation Road and Space Centre.</i> ➤ <i>Create play area including interactives.</i> ➤ <i>Restore public art on site.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Complete any outstanding ground works.</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Initial landscaping plans drawn up and £30,000 additional funding secured for the creation of a dementia garden.</i> 		
4. Upgrade displays and improve presentation within the Museum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>The Electric Switch Room has been redecorated.</i> ➤ <i>Some improvements to display including the showcasing of the Clyde car and the electric powered mini.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Upgrade some displays and interactives in the museum.</i> ➤ <i>Refresh reception area.</i> ➤ <i>Replace acrylic panels in the Beam Engine House.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Upgrade further displays and interactives.</i>
5. Develop design ideas for a more comprehensive scheme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Initial work has been previously carried out on design options by the museum service and the LMTA volunteer group.</i> ➤ <i>Initial planning meeting to progress future funding application.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Develop designs further.</i> ➤ <i>Commission external company to carry out work</i> ➤ <i>Develop and seek approval for external funding strategy.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Submit funding application</i>
Expenditure/Budget	£60,000	£280,000	£160,000