



Report to: Place and Economic Development Sub-Committee, 29th October 2020

Report of: Corporate Director - Place

Subject: MUSEUMS WORCESTERSHIRE ANNUAL REVIEW

1. Recommendation

1.1 That the Sub-Committee note the activities undertaken in museums in 2019-20 and the impact made.

2. Background

- 2.1 Museums Worcestershire is the joint museum service for Worcester City Council and Worcestershire County Council. Since its establishment in 2010, local residents' satisfaction with museums has increased significantly and both authorities have been able to reduce their spending on museums through efficient shared working.
- 2.2 In Worcester City, Museums Worcestershire manage the Art Gallery & Museum, The Commandery and cares for the collections of the City which, starting in 1833 makes Worcester's the 6th oldest museum in the country. The service runs programmes of exhibitions, events, formal and informal learning for all ages and supports wider culture and heritage through joint projects and professional advice.
- 2.3 Museums Worcestershire has been hosted by Worcester City Council since July 2018. The service is overseen by a Joint Museums Committee with members from both authorities.

3. Information

- 3.1 The appended annual review of Museums Worcestershire activity in 2019-20 was approved by the Joint Museums Committee at their July meeting.
- 3.2 The report highlights the impact that museums make in the City and County, illustrated through case studies, comments from users and performance figures.
- 3.3 Visitors to the Art Gallery & Museum were at their highest for many years, reflecting a particularly strong and popular programme of exhibitions including artworks by Matisse and Turner and Star Wars memorabilia.
- 3.4 The service made transformation savings of £76,000, and raised more than £87,000 of external grant funding for museum projects. The Art Gallery & Museum alone generated more than £1million of economic impact by attracting visitors into Worcester.

Ward(s): All Wards
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Background Papers: none
Supporting documents: Museums Worcestershire Annual Review 19-20