

Record of a decision of Matthew Gladstone, Executive Directive Place.

Development and Installation of Redesigned Interactives, Audio and Audiovisual Exhibits at Experience Barnsley Museum

Subject

The Museum at Experience Barnsley is a highly interactive and family friendly venue, with many exhibits giving visitors different ways to explore Barnsley's heritage and stories. Mechanical interactives, handling activities, touch screens and push button audio have all proved really successful in engaging visitors of different ages, backgrounds and abilities.

For people to enjoy their Museum visit with similar levels of interactivity in a Covid-safe way, we have had to review each exhibit and explore options for redesign. The Barnsley Museums team has carried out reviews of public galleries at Cannon Hall Museum, the Cooper Gallery and Experience Barnsley, bringing in specialist museum fitout company The Hub at the latter two sites. After review, the Hub implemented changes successfully at the Cooper Gallery, which reduced visitor touchpoints by changing the nature of the exhibits. This has meant visitors are still able to get the same content and experience but through for example, sensors to trigger sound rather than touch-buttons, and visual activities rather than hands-on. Some physical interactives have had new temporary graphics placed over them, which means they can be brought back into use when it is safe to do so.

The changes to the Cooper Gallery cost £8398.00. Due to the volume of exhibits being much higher at Experience Barnsley, the cost of making changes which would protect the public and staff, but which would still provide a highly engaging visitor experience, would be £21,267.15. The costs are contained within the £62,000 additional Covid recovery funds allocated by Gold to enhance Visitor Experience

The museum fitout sector has been hit hard as many others have, and The Hub have quickly mobilised to provide services to museums and galleries in need of making their venues Covid-safe. The Hub were a company we approached initially because they carried out the fitout work for the new and refurbished galleries at the Cooper in 2016. Having looked into what other companies would be available, we have either not been able to make contact, or the companies have not been able to provide us with the redesign service required. Having completed the fitout at the Cooper Gallery to an excellent standard and on a fast turnaround, we believe it to be the best solution for Experience Barnsley to appoint the Hub to progress the changes at the Museum. As we have already established with them the approach we are looking for with exhibits in terms of visitor interaction, materials, accessibility, cost and timescale, we believe appointing the Hub will be the fastest and most cost effective solution.

Background Papers



Barnsley Museums'
Recovery Plans GOLD

Decision Taken

To proceed by appointing The Hub to develop and install redesigned exhibits at Experience Barnsley Museum.

Date of Decision: 06.10.2020



Signature:
Matthew Gladstone
Executive Director Place



Signature:

Pp Steve Loach Head of Corporate Finance