



INFRASTRUCTURE, SAFETY AND GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

30th September 2024

Wednesday, 2nd October, 2024, 6.00 pm in Town Hall, Market Street, Tamworth

SUPPLEMENT – ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

Further to the Agenda and Papers for the above meeting, previously circulated, please find attached the following further information, which was not available when the agenda was issued:

Agenda No. Item

7. **Heritage Engagement Co-ordinator review** (Pages 3 - 14)
(Report of the Portfolio Holder for People Services, Engagement and Leisure/Assistant Director, Growth and Regeneration)

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. C. V.'.

Chief Executive

To Councillors: M Couchman, L Wood, C Adams, M Bailey, L Clarke, M Clarke, J Oates,
B Price and N Statham.

Wednesday, 2 October 2024

**Report of the Portfolio Holder for People Services, Engagement and Leisure /
Assistant Director - Growth & Regeneration**

Heritage Engagement Co-ordinator review

Exempt Information

None

Purpose

To provide the committee with an update on the range of activities and outcomes achieved for Tamworth's residents by the Heritage Engagement Co-ordinator post.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee note the wide range of opportunities that have already been created by the establishment of the Heritage Engagement Co-ordinator (HEC) post and the UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) activity funding.

Executive Summary

Since January 2024 the Heritage Engagement Coordinator has developed and delivered a varied programme of heritage craft activities. These activities have been delivered primarily in community spaces with local groups and charities including young mums, elderly residents, young adults with special educational needs, asylum seekers, dementia and church groups. A number of showcase artworks pieces have subsequently been displayed at Tamworth Castle, St Editha's church and Ankerside shopping centre, and also featured in the recent Athelstan 1100 town festival.

Project highlights include but are not limited to:

- Woodcarving workshops with asylum seekers who were being temporarily housed at a local hotel. Following weeks of relationship-building and engagement with third party organisations the group reached 10-20 regular participants per week.
- Blacksmith Workshops with young mums, elderly residents and young adults with special educational needs who all took part in blacksmith sessions to hand forge metal poppies. Working with a local blacksmith, residents were able to learn a new skill and find out more about the history of blacksmithing at Tamworth Castle. The poppies are now on display at Tamworth Castle.
- 20 community groups were involved in the creation of a giant Saxon flag (measuring 9X6metres), to represent the kingdom of Mercia, of which Tamworth was once the capital. The flag was unveiled from the top of the castle motte, at a community event to celebrate Tamworth's Saxon history.
- In April 24, we held a free, family heritage crafts event in the local shopping centre. Over 200 people attended the event and took part in heritage craft activities led by local artists and practitioners. Two pieces of collaborative community art were created, including a tile mosaic of Tamworth Castle, and a hand-woven wall decoration, both of which are now on display in the castle.
- So far over 50 heritage craft workshops have been delivered, involving nearly 500 people. At least 5 under-represented groups have participated in heritage craft activities and enduring relationships have been built with partner organisations,

community groups and artists some of whom now regularly volunteer at Tamworth Castle to support conservation and historic costume making and repair.

Participants have been encouraged to complete feedback surveys after attending a workshop or event, the response has been overwhelmingly positive, with over 80% of participants saying that the heritage craft activity / event made them feel proud of their local heritage. Over 90% of participants said that they saw a positive impact on their mood and general wellbeing after attending a craft workshop.

Testimonials and quotes have also been captured: an asylum seeker said, 'woodcarving has been my sanctuary' and a young mum who attended a book making workshop said, 'I managed to escape my busy mind and take some time-out'.

A small number of activities have been developed to generate income and support the viability of the project beyond the end of grant funding. Consultation has also been undertaken with activities participants to repurpose the Castle Coach House, to create a new, community craft venue.

In September 2024 Tamworth Castle Museum was invited to submit an application for a City Nation Place award for the Heritage Crafts project and has been chosen as a delivery partner for the next 'We are Staffordshire' event to showcase local crafts and creative practitioners.

Options Considered

None

Resource Implications

None – UKSPF funded post and activity

Legal/Risk Implications Background

None

Equalities Implications

Community Impact Assessment attached.

Environment and Sustainability Implications (including climate change)

The Heritage Crafts Project, led by the Heritage Engagement Coordinator, has a strong focus on reusing materials, conservation, ethical use of natural resources, the development of traditional skills and connecting local people with their natural and historic environment.

Background Information

In November 2023, the Appointments and Staffing Committee approved the establishment of a UKSPF grant-funded Heritage Engagement Coordinator post to be based within the Castle team. The fixed term contract would last for a maximum of two years. The postholder began in January 2024 and their contract will expire at the end of March 2025.

The post was established to enable a heritage crafts activity and engagement plan to be developed, delivered and embedded as a model for future participation, to increase the number of creative activities available to local residents, and to bring people together to collaborate and celebrate the local place. The project would also provide opportunities for individuals and groups to establish themselves as artists, demonstrators and facilitators.

When the post was approved committee members requested an update on the post be presented to the Infrastructure Safety and Growth Committee after approximately six months activity.

Key performance indicators for the duration of the project include:

- To develop a programme of regular heritage craft projects involving a minimum of three under-represented community groups
- To produce a minimum of three community led pieces of art.
- To evidence how craft has a positive effect on mood and wellbeing, through survey responses.
- To increase footfall at local events - we set out to engage with a minimum of 200 people through the heritage craft project.

Report Author

Lara Rowe – Castle Museum and Archive Manager

List of Background Papers

- Handcrafted Heritage leaflet

AppendicesCommunity Impact Assessment Promotional Leaflet

This page is intentionally left blank



**HANDCRAFTED
HERITAGE
TAMWORTH**

Get Involved & find out more:

- ✉ heritage@tamworth.gov.uk
- ☎ 01827 709626
- 📘 [tamworthcastle](https://www.facebook.com/tamworthcastle)
- 📷 [tamworthcastleandgrounds](https://www.instagram.com/tamworthcastleandgrounds)

Handcrafted Heritage is a new initiative by Tamworth Castle to create opportunities to see, make and learn about traditional heritage crafts.

We aim to build relationships between local artists, businesses, education providers and community groups and encourage the sharing of ideas, skills and knowledge.

Our activities include:

- Exhibitions
- Demonstrations
- Public events
- Heritage craft workshops
- Encouraging discussion and training around heritage craft practice
- Partnership working with local artists, businesses and community groups
- Supporting heritage craftspeople to continue to practice, nurture and pass on their craft skills to future generations

#heritagecrafts

A heritage craft is defined as:

“A practice which employs manual dexterity and skill at the point of production, an understanding of traditional materials, design and techniques, and which has been practised for two or more successive generations.”



 **Funded by
UK Government**

Tamworth
Borough Council

POWERED BY
**LEVELLING
UP**

www.tamworthcastle.com



HANDCRAFTED HERITAGE TAMWORTH

Handcrafted Heritage is collaborating with local craftspeople and community groups to deliver a range of craft activities in the local community, including pottery, willow weaving, stone masonry, wood carving, textiles and blacksmithing.

We want to raise awareness and interest in heritage craft skills, to engage new and existing audiences, particularly young people and those at risk of social isolation.



Heritage crafts local to Tamworth

Tamworth has strong historic links with the clay industry and traditional crafts such as textiles and blacksmithing.

In the late 18th Century, Mr Robert Peel (MP for Tamworth) built cotton mills in the Castle Grounds and rented Tamworth Castle to use as a blacksmiths forge.

The company of Gibbs and Canning was established in Glascote, Tamworth, in 1846. They were clay manufacturers and became internationally famous for their fine architectural terracotta and glazed tiles commissioned for buildings in London, Hong Kong, USA and Canada.

[#keeperheritagecraftsalive](#)

Crafting for well-being

Crafting offers a wide range of benefits for our mental and physical well-being. It can allow the mind and body to slow down, which can help to reduce the feelings of stress and anxiety. Taking part in group craft activities can also help to develop connections and relationships with other people.

[#craftingforwellbeing](#)

Keeping heritage craft techniques alive

Handcrafted Heritage is working with local craftspeople to support them to continue to practice, nurture and pass on their craft skills to the next generation. Heritage crafts have contemporary relevance through the connection with skills development, conservation, sustainability, and ethical use of natural resources and can provide an opportunity for people to establish themselves as artists and demonstrators.

[#handcraftedheritage](#)

Community Impact Assessment

Part 1 – Details		
What Policy/ Procedure/ Strategy/Project/Service is being assessed?	Heritage Engagement Co-ordinator and Heritage Crafts project - review	
Date Conducted	23.09.24	
Name of Lead Officer and Service Area	Lara Rowe, Tamworth Castle Museum	
Commissioning Team (if applicable)		
Director Responsible for project/service area	Anna Miller	
Who are the main stakeholders	Local residents, community groups, volunteers, charities, churches, partner organisations, funder.	
Describe what consultation has been undertaken. Who was involved and what was the outcome	Consultation takes place with the participants at each event via surveys and feedback forms. Funders are provided with quarterly monitoring via the UKSPF board and in turn provide guidance on funding priorities.	
Outline the wider research that has taken place (E.G. commissioners, partners, other providers etc)	N/A	
What are you assessing? Indicate with an 'x' which applies	A decision to review or change a service	<input type="checkbox"/>
	A Strategy/Policy/Procedure	<input type="checkbox"/>
	A function, service or project	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
What kind of assessment is it? Indicate with an 'x' which applies	New	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Existing	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Being reviewed	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Being reviewed as a result of budget constraints / End of Contract	<input type="checkbox"/>

Part 2 – Summary of Assessment

Give a summary of your proposal and set out the aims/ objectives/ purposes/ and outcomes of the area you are impact assessing.

The range and impact of activities delivered by the Heritage Engagement Coordinator since January 2024. The benefits for local residents of the grant-funded post.

Who will be affected and how?

Local residents – improved access to creative activities and events, local pride, skills development, improved engagement with local heritage and culture.

Community groups, volunteers, charities and church groups – opportunities to work with artists and crafters, skills development, collaboration and reduced social isolation, pride, profile raised.

Partner organisations – increased footfall, audience development

Artists and creative practitioners – raised profile, opportunities to develop professional practice.

Are there any other functions, policies or services linked to this impact assessment?

Yes

No

If you answered 'Yes', please indicate what they are?

Part 3 – Impact on the Community

Thinking about each of the Areas below, does or could the Policy function, or service have a direct impact on them?

Impact Area	Yes	No	Reason (provide brief explanation)
Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Services delivered directly to sheltered accommodation and accessible locations to increase opportunities to engage.
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Services delivered directly to community groups and in accessible locations to increase opportunities to engage.
Gender Reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Marriage and Civil Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Pregnancy & Maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Race	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Services delivered directly to community groups and in accessible locations to increase opportunities to engage.
Religion or belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Services delivered directly to community groups and in accessible locations to increase opportunities to engage.
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Gypsy/Travelling Community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Those with caring/dependent responsibilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Services delivered directly to community groups and in accessible locations to increase opportunities to engage.
Those having an offending past	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Children	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Free family activities delivered in local venues such as library and shopping centres to improve access.
Vulnerable Adults	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Services delivered directly to community groups and in accessible locations to increase opportunities to engage.
Families	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Free family activities delivered in local venues such as library and shopping centres to improve access.
Those who are homeless	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Those on low income	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Free activities delivered in local venues such as library and shopping centres to improve opportunities to access creative sessions.
Those with drug or alcohol problems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Those with mental health issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Those with physical health issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Social inclusion Please include refugees and asylum seekers,	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Working with third party organisations to build relationships and deliver sessions with participants in accessible and neutral locations to increase opportunities to engage.
Social inclusion: Armed Forces The Armed Forces Covenant is a pledge that together we acknowledge and understand that those	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

who have served in the armed forces, and their families, should be treated with fairness and respect and any impact should be considered			
Health and Wellbeing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Arts and craft activities provide wellbeing benefits. Volunteers and participants are surveyed over time.
Climate Change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Part 4 – Risk Assessment

From evidence given from previous question, please detail what measures or changes will be put in place to mitigate adverse implications. this includes climate change considerations

This is the section in which to please outline any actions to mitigate negative or enhance positive impacts in terms of economic, environmental or wider societal considerations, and actions to review and monitor the overall impact of the change accordingly.

Impact Area	Details of the Impact	Action to reduce risk
Project participants	End of project due to lack of funding. Reduced opportunities to engage in creative activities and subsequent health and wellbeing impacts.	Seek suitable grant funding providers.
Artists and creative practitioners	End of project due to lack of funding. Reduced opportunities to deliver creative activities and to develop professional practice and networks.	Seek suitable grant funding providers.

Part 5 - Action Plan and Review

Detail in the plan below, actions that you have identified in your Community Impact Assessment, which will eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and/or foster good relations.

If you are unable to eliminate or reduce negative impact on any of the impact areas, you should explain why

Impact (positive or negative) identified	Action	Person(s) responsible	Target date	Required outcome
Lack of opportunities to engage due to end of project funding	Seek appropriate grant funding to extend the duration of the project	Lara Rowe, Emma Carter (postholder)	March 2025	Continuation of the project delivery

Date of Review (If applicable) March 2025

Guidance and form updated July 2023 following CMT approval.

This page is intentionally left blank