

Extract of Executive Board Minutes Relevant to the Employment, Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 4 OCTOBER 2012

EXB73 NORTON PRIORY MUSEUM

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities, on the successful stage one Heritage Lottery Fund bid for Norton Priory Museum.

The Board was advised that in April 2012, Norton Priory Museum Trust submitted a stage one application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a project designed to preserve, restore, enhance, interpret and provide access to the 47 acre site on Norton Priory. As the application was successful, the Trust was invited to move to a stage two application, having been given funding at stage one, of £309,000 to help with the development of the stage two bid.

The Board noted that the main focus of the project was the physical development of the site which included:-

- Preservation and restoration of the 12th Century undercroft;
- A new expanded museum building, creating 60% more exhibition space and linked to the undercroft; and
- Enhancement of the heritage features in the grounds.

The timetable for the development and delivery of the project was set out in the report with indicative start and finish times for the various phases of the work. The cost of the proposed development was £4,892,392 and budget expenditure details were also outlined in the report. It was further noted that the maximum grant available from the Heritage Lottery Fund was 75% of the total project cost, leaving £987,392 to be identified by Norton Priory before the submission of the stage two bid in July 2013.

Members were advised that Norton Priory had engaged with the Council throughout the bidding process and details of agreed assistance in helping to deliver a successful stage two bid were outlined in the report. Re-development of the site would produce a visitor attraction able to compete for visitors with a 60% increase forecast once the works were complete, and was designed to keep pace with the improvements and innovations at other visitor attractions across the country.

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to support the project and

stage two application by:-

- 1) acting as the delivery agent in the construction phase;
- 2) undertaking to cash flow the project and to draw down funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund accordingly;
- 3) assisting Norton Priory in realising targets set in their fund raising strategy;
- 4) noting that a further report be brought to the Executive Board prior to the stage two submission, detailing the financial position and identifying any potential shortfall; and
- 5) acting as a co-applicant for the two stage submission.