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**DE-ACCESSION AND ACQUISITION OF EXHIBITS AT  
DARLINGTON RAILWAY CENTRE AND MUSEUM**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member(s) - Councillor Lee Vasey, Leisure Services Portfolio  
Responsible Director(s) - John Buxton, Director of Development and Environment**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. To seek Members' approval for the de-accession of Head Wrightson No. 33/1873 (Ex. Seaham Harbour No. 17) from Darlington Railway Centre and Museum (DRCM) to Beamish and the acquisition of Chaldron Wagon No. 434 from Beamish into the collection of DRCM.

**Information and Analysis**

2. Currently DRCM has on loan from Beamish a Chaldron Wagon No. 434, whilst Beamish have a Head Wrightson No. 33/1873 (Ex. Seaham Harbour No. 17) locomotive on loan from DRCM. It is proposed that DRCM will de-accession the Head Wrightson locomotive and place it under the ownership of Beamish. Beamish will de-accession the Chaldron Wagon and place it under the ownership of DRCM.
3. The Head Wrightson locomotive is more pertinent to the collection of Beamish due to their collection containing a Head Wrightson Locomotive No. 18 and some Seaham Harbour Chaldron Wagons within their 1913 colliery railway exhibition. In addition this exhibit does not fit within the current collection policy of DRCM.
4. The Chaldron Wagon currently on loan is a very good example, with little repair, dating from around the 1860's. Chaldron Wagons were in continual use on the North Eastern Railway until 1914 and continued to be used in collieries up to the 1950's therefore this exhibit would be an important addition to DRCM's collection.
5. The Head Wrightson locomotive was originally loaned to the Museum in September 1975 by Head Wrightson & Co. Since then, the company has ceased trading and although all reasonable efforts were made to locate ownership of the company before the locomotive was moved out on loan to Beamish, it seems that the company has simply ceased trading and no one has taken on their assets.

**Outcome of Consultation**

6. As Head Wrightson & Co no longer exist and no other company has taken over the firm, the Museums Documentation Association were consulted over ownership of the Head Wrightson locomotive. They stated that they were satisfied that ownership could now be assumed to be that of the Museum.

7. The Joint Committee and Senior Keeper at Beamish have discussed this proposal and are happy to approve the transfer of the two aforementioned items. They have confirmed that DRCM will have unfettered ownership of the Chaldron Wagon.

### **Financial Implications**

8. There are no costs involved in the transaction since the two exhibits are already located within the Museum to which it is proposed they should be transferred to. Similarly, there will be no monetary transfer between Darlington Railway Centre and Museum and Beamish.

### **Legal Implications**

9. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

### **Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

10. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

### **Council Policy Framework**

11. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework

### **Decision Deadline**

12. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter

### **Recommendation**

13. It is recommended that :-
  - (a) Members approve the de-accession and transfer of ownership of the Head Wrightson No. 33/1873 from DRCM to Beamish.
  - (b) Members approve the acquisition of the Chaldron Wagon from Beamish into the DRCM collection.

## **Reasons**

14. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons :-

- (a) The Head Wrightson No. 33/1873 does not fit with the current Collection Policy of DRCM.
- (b) The Chaldron Wagon is an excellent example dating back to 1860 of a wagon used on the Stockton and Darlington and North Eastern railways and will be an excellent addition to the DRCM collection.
- (c) The Chaldron Wagon fits into the current Collection Policy of DRCM.

**John Buxton**  
**Director of Development and Environment**

## **Background Papers**

File: De-accession of Head Wrightson No 33/1873 and Acquisition of Chaldron Wagon

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