

CABINET
13 APRIL 2021

LOCOMOTION NO 1 AND REPLICA

**Responsible Cabinet Member -
Councillor Heather Scott, Leader and all Cabinet Members**

**Responsible Director -
Ian Williams, Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Members on the outcome of the negotiations with the Science Museum Group [on behalf of the National Railway Museum (NRM)] with regard to Locomotion No 1 and with Beamish Museum with regard to the Replica of Locomotion No 1. To seek Cabinet approval for the acquisition of the Replica of Locomotion No 1 from Beamish Museum.

Summary

2. A Memorandum of Understanding on the future loan exhibits from the NRM has been agreed and Locomotion No 1 has been transferred to Locomotion in Shildon. However, it will return to Darlington in 2025 for a period and then on an ongoing basis moving forward. In addition, the Council have also secured the transfer of ownership of the Replica of Locomotion No 1 from Beamish Museum to the Council.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that Members:-
 - (a) approve the acquisition of the Replica of Locomotion No 1 from Beamish Museum;
 - (b) approve the provision of a grant to Beamish Museum, to a maximum of £150,000, to enable them to restore the Locomotive Dunrobin;
 - (c) Authorise the Director of Economic Growth & Neighbourhood Services in consultation with the Portfolio holder to finalise terms;
 - (d) Authorise the Assistant Director Law and Governance to complete the legal agreements necessary for the acquisition and grant.

Reasons

4. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons :-
 - (a) To enable the Council to finalise the acquisition of the Replica of Locomotion No 1;

- (b) To support the Councils plans for the Head of Steam and the bicentenary celebrations in 2025.

Ian Williams
Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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S17 Crime and Disorder	No impact as a result of this report
Health and Wellbeing	No impact as a result of this report
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	No impact as a result of this report
Diversity	No impact as a result of this report
Wards Affected	The Head of Steam is located in Northgate Ward
Groups Affected	No particular group is affected
Budget and Policy Framework	No impact as a result of this report
Key Decision	No
Urgent Decision	No
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The acquisition of the Replica Locomotion and its return to working order at the Head of Steam will have a significant impact on the Place outcomes
Efficiency	No impact as a result of this report
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

5. The Leader of the Council, with officers, has been working over the past months to secure an acceptable agreement for the future display of Locomotion No 1 in Darlington. While it is not disputed that Darlington is the historical home of Locomotion No 1, legally the owner is the Science Museum Group (SMG) by a quirk of history, with ownership passing down over the years to finally the National Railway Museum (NRM), which is part of the SMG. Locomotion No 1 has been in Darlington for 163 years with a short gap when visiting other countries.
6. A cross-party group was set up with a number of other representatives to help challenge the decision to remove Locomotion No 1 from Darlington and lead a campaign to retain Locomotion No 1 in Darlington. There has been ongoing dialogue and meetings with the Council Leader and the Local MP with the Chair and Board members of the Science Museum Group, as well as officer meetings to try to reach agreement.

Outcomes

7. Following the detailed negotiations, Locomotion No 1 was relocated from the Head of Steam to Shildon. While the Council wanted the relocation to happen in the summer/autumn of 2022 when the Head of Steam will close for refurbishment, the loan agreement came to an end in March 2021. The NRM were carrying out asbestos removal on a number of locomotives at Shildon during lockdown and work was also required to be undertaken on Locomotion No 1, therefore the relocation took place on 8 March 2021.
8. Through negotiation with the SMG, the following are the key points agreed as part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
 - (a) Locomotion No 1 will return to Darlington from 1 January 2025 until 31 July 2025;
 - (b) Between 2026 and 2030, Locomotion No 1 will return to Darlington on two occasions for six months;
 - (c) Post 2030, Locomotion No 1 will return to Darlington for two 12-month periods or one 24-month period, every five years.
9. In addition to the above, the other locomotives; Derwent, NER Tennant, NER Raven, T3 and a number of smaller collection items on loan to Darlington that also end in 2021 will remain on long term loan until the end of 2029.

Locomotion No 1 Replica

10. As part of the celebration for the 150th Anniversary of the Stockton and Darlington Railway in 1975, a Replica of Locomotion No 1 was built with public and private funding, supported by north-east industry. The Replica worked for a significant period of time post 1975 and visited Japan and the United States through its operational career. It is owned by Beamish Museum and currently on display at the

Locomotion in Shildon, unfortunately no longer operational.

11. Officers have been in discussions with representatives from Beamish Museum with regard to the transfer of ownership of the Replica of Locomotion No 1 from Beamish Museum to Darlington Borough Council. Agreement has been reached with Beamish Museum to transfer the ownership of the Replica to Darlington Borough Council and it is anticipated that the transfer should be completed by the end of April 2021, subject to Cabinet approval.
12. In recognition of the transfer, the Council will need to provide a grant to Beamish to a maximum of £150,000 to enable them to restore the locomotive Dunrobin; unfortunately to date they have been unable to carry out the restoration due to lack of funds. The locomotive Dunrobin was built in 1895 for the 4th Duke of Sutherland to haul private carriages from Dunrobin Castle to Inverness.
13. One of the aspirations for the 2025 celebrations is to have the Locomotion No 1 Replica operating under steam to be a central part of the overall celebrations. To achieve this, there is a significant amount of work required to bring the Locomotion No 1 Replica back into working order and up to modern day standards to enable it to run on the rail network. An assessment of the work required will take place once the Replica is transferred to the Head of Steam later this month. A further report will be brought to Cabinet in due course once the costs are known for the restoration and how they can be funded.
14. Once restored to working order and post 2025, there will be the opportunity to operate the Locomotion No 1 Replica on regular event days at the Rail Heritage Quarter and to loan out to partners.
15. Through this new partnership with Beamish Museum, two locomotives; the Replica of Locomotion No 1 and Dunrobin will be brought back into operation. In addition, officers will continue to work with Beamish Museum on shared opportunities, particularly as part of the 2025 celebrations.

Financial Implications

16. To enable the transfer of the Replica of Locomotion No 1, the Council will need to provide a grant to Beamish Museum of a maximum of £150,000. This grant can be funded from the Futures Fund (developing the visitor economy).

Legal Implications

17. An agreement for the acquisition of the Replica of Locomotion No 1 will need to be formalised with Beamish Museum and in addition for the grant to Beamish Museum enabling the refurbishment of the locomotive Dunrobin. The Council has wide powers to acquire property and also a general power of competence.