

Update on Recommendations**Report to the Blackpool Council Audit Committee to be held on 3 March 2022**

1.	Introduction
1.1	<p>A review of the Blackpool Museum Project was undertaken by Blackpool Council's internal audit team in 2020. This resulted in a report dated 4 November 2020.</p> <p>This review gave four recommendations. This report provides an update for the Audit Committee in terms of the progress being made to implement them.</p>
2.	Update on Actions from Audit Report
2.1	<p><i>Recommendation 1 - Steps should be taken to agree the contribution of the acoustic separation costs from Coolsilk.</i></p> <p>This recommendation has been implemented and resulted in a sharing of the costs. The acoustic separation solution resulted in three cost elements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The construction of an acoustic retaining wall around the inside perimeter of the building – this work was undertaken by Coolsilk and the full costs were borne by them. 2. An element of exhibition redesign made necessary by the wall's construction – these costs were met by use of the project contingency as agreed with project funder, the National Lottery Heritage Fund. 3. The application of an acoustic lining to the ceiling within the museum demise – these costs were incorporated into the capital basebuild costs and undertaken by the museum project's basebuild contractor.
2.2	<p><i>Recommendation 2 - Risk assessments for Covid-19 adjustments should be completed and shared with NHLF to establish whether Covid-19 uplifts are possible/required.</i></p> <p>This recommendation has been actioned. A full and detailed project Covid review was undertaken during 2020. This considered the potential implications of Covid on the basebuild, the exhibition design, public engagement and the</p>

	<p>business plan. This review was discussed at the Project Board on 2 November 2020. It also formed the basis of a meeting with the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This situation has remained under review and an uplift request to the NLHF is currently in preparation. It will be submitted by the end of February for consideration at their meeting on 24 March.</p>
2.3	<p><i>The business plan should be reviewed and updated in light of Covid-19, and should articulate the various potential scenarios considered so that contingency plans can be prepared in order to react to the future Covid-19 situation.</i></p> <p>This recommendation has been implemented. The original business plan was completed in 2019 by Amion Consulting. In 2021 a detailed and comprehensive review of the business plan was undertaken. This resulted in a refreshed business plan, which took full account of the impacts of Covid on the tourism landscape of Blackpool in general and on Showtown (Blackpool Museum) in particular. Blackpool Council's Finance Department, the Director of Communications and Regeneration (also the Project Sponsor), the Director of Resources, the Director of Governance and Partnerships and the National Lottery Heritage Fund business adviser were all fully involved in this process. The review included a risk analysis and implications for future visitor number restrictions.</p>
2.4	<p><i>Lessons learned from the Covid-19 experiences from both neighbouring attractions and museums across the country should regularly be considered, so that successful approaches can be implemented.</i></p> <p>This recommendation remains on-going. The Museum project is part of the Lancashire Museums Forum which meets quarterly. Covid-19 and its implications forms part of the agenda and experiences are shared regularly. The project is also part of the wider Museums Development North West Network which similarly shares regional and national information through regular blogs, emails and training sessions. The Head of Heritage is also part of the English Civic Museums Network which meets monthly and is a forum for sharing information and experiences relating to a wide range of museum and business issues, including Covid. Blackpool Council's close involvement with a range of Blackpool tourist attractions also provides useful and interesting insights into the local tourism economy, including the impacts of Covid-19.</p>

