

THE BRIAN HATTON COLLECTION**Report By: HEAD OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICES****Wards Affected**

Countywide

Purpose

1. To update Members on the position in respect of the Brian Hatton Collection.

Financial Implications

2. None.

Background

3. The Brian Hatton Collection is a collection of paintings and drawings and associated material. He is a Herefordshire artist who was born in 1897 and died whilst on active service in the first World War. A selection of his work was on display in the Hatton Gallery at Churchill House until 2002. The collection was moved to the Museum and Art Gallery in Broad Street, Hereford with the closure of Churchill House Museum and items from the collection are now displayed in the main gallery.

Considerations

4. Churchill House is currently leased to Herefordshire College of Art and Design with the majority of the income covering maintenance and repair of the house and its surroundings. However, 27% of the rent attributed to the Gallery space, which represents the contribution the Hatton family made towards the construction costs of the Gallery, is set-aside in a separate account (£972 p.a). The current fund is accrued at £33,087, which will be used partly towards a Brian Hatton exhibition in 2007. The fund is also retained to purchase additional items for the collection and to conserve and maintain the existing collection, with the majority being used as match funding towards a Heritage Lottery Fund application currently being drawn up to achieve the following:
 - To create a full electronic reference to the Hatton Collection with high quality images and detailed background information that will be available to any member of the public via the Internet. This will increase access, knowledge and understanding of the collection to a potential worldwide audience.
 - To form a solo exhibition of the paintings in the Art Gallery at Broad Street in Hereford for November and December 2007. This exhibition will raise awareness of the work of Brian Hatton with a local and regional audience.
5. In addition Herefordshire College of Art and Design presents an award to a successful student (separate from that of the building and collections) at an annual ceremony as part of a bequeath by Marjorie Hatton.

6. The paintings are currently stored at the Museum and Art Gallery at Broad Street, Hereford. However, all the paintings will be relocated in the Museum Resource and Learning Centre in Friar Street, Hereford when works are completed in the summer of 2007. This is the 3rd stage of the development of the centre which will provide one of the best museum collection facilities in the West Midlands, if not the country. Between the phases of capital works the Museum Resource and Learning Centre has held 4 open days with the opportunity for the public to see much of the collection, including the Gipsy Caravan and Judge's Coach. 73 groups have also visited on pre-booked tours. This 3rd phase of the project is costing £1.83 million with a contribution from Heritage Lottery of £1.23 million and the balance from Herefordshire Council's capital programme. Once complete the centre will offer easy access to all the collections, dedicated space for learning and lectures and facilities for volunteers and researchers.
7. The final phase of the scheme will be the development of the Broad Street site dedicated to our heritage collection. This is dependent on the relocation of the Library to the Edgar Street Grid site.
8. There are currently 14 Brian Hatton paintings/drawings on display at the Museum and Art Gallery linked to other parts of the collection, the selection on display is changed regularly.
9. A Trust called The Brian Hatton Gallery has been established to have responsibility for Brian Hatton works donated by the Hatton family, registered with the Charity Commission (no.1097738) for which the Council corporately is the sole trustee.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT, subject to any comments that Members may wish to make, the report be noted

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None Identified