

Overview of Tyne and Wear Museums Governance

TWM is a joint service of five local authorities (Newcastle, Sunderland, South Tyneside, North Tyneside, and Gateshead), with additional support and contributions from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). TWM has a separate management agreement with the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, to manage the Great North Museum.

It manages twelve sites, in total, on behalf of its clients; however, it is an autonomous body, client-centred but with its own management committee of elected members from the five authorities.

TWM is also the lead partner for the North East Regional Museums Hub (NERMH) which operates on behalf of a partnership which includes the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), its regional agency (MLA North East), Beamish: The North of England Open Air Museum, The Bowes Museum and Hartlepool Museums Service.

The relationship between and commitment of, the partners is enshrined in the Tyne & Wear Museums Joint Agreement (1986, renewed in both 1996 & 2006). This lays out the terms and conditions of the relationship and the involvement of central government.

Policy and decision making is undertaken by the Joint Committee and key decisions are outlined in the Corporate Plan. A considerable degree of consultation takes place about budget priorities and budget proposals, which shaped the budget decisions that were made.

The Joint Committee has delegated certain responsibilities to the Director, which are set out in the Financial Handbook. Decisions taken under delegated powers are reported on a regular basis to the Chair to the Joint Committee.

TWM has established an Audit Committee which is separate from the Joint Committee. It includes an independent chair and vice-chair. The Audit Committee provides an essential challenge, monitoring and scrutiny role in relation to governance and internal control issues, helping to provide assurance and the early identification and resolution of weaknesses in arrangements.

Meet the Chairs of our Key Committees



Councillor Ged Bell, Chair
Tyne and Wear Museums Joint Committee



Mr Tom Caulker, Independent Chair,
Tyne and Wear Museums Audit Committee

Meet the Management Team



Alec Coles, Director

Alec has overall responsibility for TWM's commitment to deliver a world class service which is innovative, imaginative, creative, inclusive, secure and sustainable. This entails the development of a clear strategic vision and management of resources, with a focus on ensuring that everyone in Tyne and Wear has access to museums provision and that it has a significant and positive impact upon their lives. Alec is ultimately accountable to the Joint Museums Committee and to the funding stakeholders of the Joint Service.

Alec can be contacted at:
alec.coles@twmuseums.org.uk



Iain Watson, Assistant Director

Iain assists and deputises for the Director in providing strategic and operational leadership for the organisation. He is also the client lead for the relationships with Newcastle City Council and Newcastle University including overall strategic and operational development of Laing Art Gallery, Discovery Museum, and the Great North Museum. Iain also has responsibility for overseeing Collections and Exhibitions, HR and Training, Projects, Design and Technical Services.

Iain can be contacted at:
iain.watson@twmuseums.org.uk



Ian Thilthorpe, Senior Manager: North & South Tyneside

Ian is responsible for the client relationships with North and South Tyneside, including overall strategic and operational development of Segedunum Roman Fort, Stephenson Railway Museum, South Shields Museum and Arbeia Roman Fort. He also has strategic and operational responsibility for ICT & Web, and Health & Safety.

Ian can be contacted at:
ian.thilthorpe@twmuseums.org.uk



Helen White, Senior Manager: Gateshead & Sunderland

Helen is responsible for the client relationships with Gateshead and Sunderland, including overall strategic and operational development of Shipley Art Gallery, Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens, Monkwearmouth Station Museum & Washington 'F' Pit. She also has strategic and operational responsibility for history and Equality and Diversity.

Helen can be contacted at:
helen.white@twmuseums.org.uk



Jackie Reynolds, Head of Corporate Affairs

Jackie is responsible for the corporate and strategic financial management within the organisation. This includes the day to day financial management of TWM and support to the organisation through functions related to corporate governance, performance management and administrative functions.

Jackie can be contacted at:
jackie.reynolds@twmuseums.org.uk



Bill Griffiths, North East Regional Museums Hub Manager

Bill has strategic and operational responsibility for the North East Regional Museums Hub, including the relationship with our partners Beamish, the Bowes Museum, Hartlepool Museums and MLA North East. The Hub is part of the national Renaissance programme established by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council in 2003. Bill also has responsibility for overseeing TWM's Learning, Outreach and Volunteering.

Bill can be contacted at:
bill.griffiths@twmuseums.org.uk



Paul Bidwell, Senior Manager: Archaeology

Paul manages one of the largest archaeological field teams in the region, working not only at our own sites but also commercially on excavations throughout the region.

TWM Archaeology is committed to delivering high-quality field work, research and reports, but also to the dissemination of the work and its results to the widest possible audience.

Paul can be contacted at:
paul.bidwell@twmuseums.org.uk



Liz Rees, Chief Archivist

Liz manages Tyne & Wear Archives Service, which merges with Tyne & Wear Museums on 1 April 2009. Tyne & Wear is one of the largest local authority archives in the country with superb shipbuilding and maritime collections designated of national and international importance and an excellent reputation for both its one to one service and its outreach work. Liz also represents Tyne & Wear on the board of the Northern Region Film & Television Archive, in which it is a major partner.

Liz can be contacted at:
liz.rees@gateshead.gov.uk



Lindy Gilliland, Project Manager: Great North Museum



Steve McLean, Project Manager: Great North Museum

Lindy and Steve are dedicated project managers responsible for the refurbishment of the Grade II* listed Hancock Museum and transforming the interior of the Hancock Museum allowing the Hancock, Shefton, and Museum of Antiquities collections to be displayed within one building. Working in partnership with Newcastle University they manage the GNM project on a day to day basis and for ensuring the project delivers the required product to the required standard of quality within the specified constraints of time and cost.

Lindy can be contacted at:
lindy.gilliland@ncl.ac.uk

Steve can be contacted at:
s.g.mclean@ncl.ac.uk



**Alisdair Wilson, Acting Senior Manager:
Access**

Alisdair has strategic responsibility for access for TWM ensuring that all aspects of its museums' activities are fully accessible to all sectors of the community by removing or reducing any physical, sensory or intellectual barriers to access.

Alisdair can be contacted at:
alisdair.wilson@twmusums.org.uk



**Andrew Garrad, Corporate Information
Officer**

Andrew provides a comprehensive range of support services to the director and the senior management team.

Andrew can be contacted at:
andrew.garrad@twmuseums.org.uk