

### **Application No 3- SIB**

<b>Name of Project</b>	North East Aircraft Museum Access Road
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	North East Aircraft Museum

<b>Total cost of Project</b>	<b>Total Match Funding</b>	<b>Total SIB requested</b>
£30,000	£17,000 (£13,000 Washington Area Committee, £4,000 NEAM)	£13,000 (North Area Committee)
<b>Project Duration</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
4 months	February 2013	May 2013

#### **The Project**

The project is a joint project, applying to both North Area Committee and Washington Area Committee.

This project is to fund a new road and drainage on the site of a local museum site. Due to the current state of the outside area of the North East Aircraft Museum site, it is unsafe for young people and adults to become involved in some of the restoration projects which are based outdoors. Health and Safety on the site would also be improved by the proposed works. The area is unsightly and discourages visitor participation in activities. By improving the site access and appearance, this would allow more younger people to become involved. By completing the hardstanding/road access, it will allow vehicles to be pulled out and safe scaffolding towers to be erected in order to be sure new skills e.g. panel work, carpentry and painting are carried out safely.

The Aircraft Museum is undergoing change to become a 'transport' museum. It is proposed that new buildings will be built on the site which will help develop an economic museum with the potential to expand over the next 5 to 15 years. A feasibility study conducted in 2010 looked at how to develop the museum from its existing role as an aircraft museum into an all purpose transport museum. The conclusion of the study was that by bringing a range of groups together the likelihood of survival became greater. Whilst Beamish Museum is the only museum in the northern region to hold pre thirties transport, these are predominantly road based transport systems. The study identified a desire to support and visit, from the people of Washington and Sunderland area and a strong interest in heritage. The study identified opportunities to engage schools in heritage projects. As part of the proposed new developments, an opportunity will arise to work with some of our senior schools and academies around engineering. More recently a NELSAM Business Plan (2012 - 15) has been completed. That Business Plan identifies the strategic aim of providing a high quality museum and visitor attraction in an accessible building in which the collections can be displayed and stored securely and in the correct environmental conditions, whilst also providing quality facilities which meet the expectations of the visitor. There is a bid going forward to the Heritage Lottery Fund to help fund a new tram building on the site. Part of the funding will employ a Heritage Engineer to work directly with volunteers and school children from the Washington and North area to restore a 1934 English Electric balloon tram.

Given proposals for development and expansion, there is a need to improve and update the area between the hangars to improve public access to all of the hangars. During the winter and the recent severe weather, the area currently floods and people in wheelchairs and parents with push chairs cannot get around the site. This also impacts on volunteering at the museum as younger people cannot be involved due to safety. If the museum is to grow and develop in line with the business plans and proposals, improved access via a tarmac/concrete roadway is required. This will allow users and visitors to move around the site freely and safely and provide appropriate drainage for rainwater.

### **Need for Project**

Consultation has been taken place with a number of volunteer groups e.g. Save The Trident, Military Vehicle Museum and the public about the issues around ground conditions. (NELSAM Business Plan). Total visitor numbers for the year were in excess of 4000, most of these coming between the Easter and Summer periods. A more attractive site will encourage even more visitors who will stay longer for their visit due to more comfortable conditions. The Aircraft Museum also accommodates school visits but these are again affected during bad weather. Health and safety on site will be better through access improvements.

### **Partnership**

Partners include the Sunderland City Council, North East Civic Trust, Military Vehicle Museum, NE Electric Traction Trust, Newcastle Airport Academy and various schools and education/training providers.

### **Outputs of the Project**

Output Code	Description	Number
A1	No. improved community facilities	1

### **Key Milestones for the Project**

Tender and specification drawn up & deadline for submission of quotes	Feb 2013
Contract awarded	Mar 2013
Start of works	Mar 2013
Completion of works	April 2013
Education programme re started	April 2013

**Recommendation: Approve ‘subject to match funding being confirmed.’**