

NEWS RELEASE

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European Investment in Weston Park Museum, Sheffield Supports Funding Package for Redevelopment

A £1 million investment by Europe has been awarded towards a major redevelopment of the Weston Park Museum in Sheffield. This investment is being made as part of the Objective 1 Programme in South Yorkshire that is investing over £700 million from Europe to help transform the South Yorkshire economy and increase the opportunities for its people.

This European investment is a substantial piece of a funding jigsaw for the Museum redevelopment that is worth £17.3 million and is co-ordinated by Sheffield Galleries & Museums Trust. It will create new office space and environmentally controlled facilities to this listed landmark building in Sheffield.

The redevelopment of the Museum has been identified as a priority by urban regeneration company Sheffield One in its Masterplan for Sheffield City centre.

“Objective 1 recognises that cities need a range of high quality institutions and facilities that promote education, learning, creativity and innovation in order to be successful. They make an important contribution towards developing economic opportunities” said Sylvia Yates of Objective 1. “Weston Park Museum is an important part of the much needed cultural offering for the City that is seeking to increase both leisure and business tourism.”

The Objective 1 investment will fund nearly 200 square metres of new office space and refurbish over 3,000 square metres of the existing building that together provide accommodation for 36 jobs.

Sally Manuireva project Manager for Weston Park Museum said: We are thrilled to receive this tremendous support from Objective 1 which will help us to create an important regional centre of excellence and learning for Sheffield people and visitors to the city.

Ends

Notes for Editors:

The Objective 1 Programme in South Yorkshire is a £1.8 billion investment programme that draws on over £700 million from the European Union's Structural Funds that are provided to help Europe's poorest areas regenerate their economies and create jobs. South Yorkshire is one of those poorest areas with fewer businesses and fewer and less well-paid jobs than other European regions.

South Yorkshire was designated as an Objective 1 area, which is the highest category of European support, at the Berlin Summit in 1999 along with Merseyside, Cornwall and the Scillies and West Wales and the Valleys. The Objective 1 Programme in South Yorkshire was launched in July 2000 and runs until the end of 2006.

To date the Programme has committed £360 million of European money to over 330 projects in South Yorkshire. Objective 1 funds are supporting the development of new businesses, helping businesses to innovate and grow, supporting the development of skills and training, supporting social enterprises, supporting the economic development of deprived communities in South Yorkshire, helping to bring forward the development of sites and premises for increased economic activity and helping to tackle both financial and transport bottlenecks that inhibit economic growth.

Weston Park Museum is operated by Sheffield Galleries & Museums Trust. It is currently closed for re-development and will open in Autumn 2005

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