

Lichfield City Council

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Town Clerk: **Anthony Briggs** B.A (Hons), CiLCA

29 April 2026

To: Members of the Johnson Birthplace Advisory Committee

Councillor A Hughes (Chair) and Councillors J Anketell, J Christie, J Eagland, M Field, J Madden, P McDermott, E Strain and R Yardley.

Representative of Johnson Society

P Jones and J Winterton

Honorary Member

A Thompson

Also to:

Museums and Heritage Officer (Kimberley Biddle)

Museum Support Officer (Francesca Benson)

Dear Committee Member

Johnson Birthplace Advisory Committee (JBAC)

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Johnson Birthplace Advisory Committee to be held in the **Moulton Room, Guildhall at 10.30am on Wednesday 6 May 2026** at which the following business will be transacted. Any member unable to attend should forward their apologies to the Town Clerk.

Yours sincerely

Town Clerk

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

3 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2025 (**copy attached**) and to consider any matters arising from those minutes. [*Minutes adopted by the City Council on 8 December 2025*].

4 SAMUEL JOHNSON BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM ANNUAL REPORT

To consider the Museum and Heritage Officer's report at **APPENDIX 1** (attached).

RECOMMENDED: That the report be noted.

5. DEVELOPMENT PROJECT UPDATE – 2025/26 PRIORITIES

To consider the Museum and Heritage Officer's Report at **APPENDIX 2** (attached).

RECOMMENDED: That the report be noted

6. JOHNSON BIRTHPLACE CHARITABLE TRUST ACCOUNT STATEMENT

To consider the financial statement at **APPENDIX 3** (attached).

RECOMMENDED: That the following be noted.

- 1. The Report and Out-Turn Statement 2025/26 will be submitted to the Audit committee 02/06/2026.***
- 2. The Council, acting in the capacity of sole Trustee of the Johnson Birthplace Charitable Trust, will be asked to make a payment of £14,753 from the Trust Funds to the City Council as the contribution to the expenditure incurred by the City Council in operating the Museum during the 2025/26 financial year.***

7. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

In the calendar of meetings as 10.30am, Wednesday 4 November 2026 in the Moulton Room, Guildhall.

ANY OTHER URGENT OR NECESSARY BUSINESS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR

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Lichfield City Council

Minutes of the Johnson Birthplace Advisory Committee Meeting held in the Moulton Room, Guildhall at 10:30am on Tuesday 4 November 2025

PRESENT:

Representing Lichfield City Council: Councillor A Hughes (Chair), and Councillors J Anketell, J Eagland, P McDermott and R Yardley

In Attendance:

T Briggs (Town Clerk)
K Biddle (Museums & Heritage Officer)
F Benson (Museum Support Officer)
J Winterton (Johnson Society Representative)
A Thompson (Honorary Member)

Apologies:

P Jones (Johnson Society Representative)
Councillors J Christie, M Field, E Strain, and J Madden

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None

2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Cllr J Eagland asked for an update on advertising, referencing section 3.2 of the Forward Plan in the minutes of the previous Johnson Birthplace Advisory Committee meeting in February 2025. The Museums and Heritage Officer (MHO) reported that visitor numbers are up, with the team hoping to reach a record-breaking 25,000 visitors for 2025/2026. She noted that improvements to the website and the introduction of new leaflets have helped increase visitor figures. The MHO added that the team needs to work more closely with the website designer, Vision ICT, to gain further insights into website visitor statistics.

Cllr A Hughes asked whether the museum had received Accreditation status. The MHO explained that the Accreditation Return takes around six months to process and, having been submitted in October 2025, a response is not expected in the near future.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 February 2025 confirmed as a correct record. [Minutes adopted by Council on 10 March 2025].

3. DEVELOPMENT PROJECT – 2025/26 PRIORITIES UPDATE

The Committee considered the MHO's report on the 2025/2026 priorities update.

(7.) Cllr J Eagland enquired whether the student completing the Keele University placement was the same person who had undertaken the studentship. The MHO clarified that the former student had completed her PhD and that project had ended. A new student placement, titled *Signed, Sealed, and Delivered*, has commenced, thereby continuing the relationship with Keele University. J Winterton noted that the new project aligns well with the letter acquired in 2023 and would provide greater insight into postal systems and letters in the Georgian era.

A Thompson welcomed the higher education student placement but suggested that opportunities should not be limited to Keele University. The MHO agreed, noting that other universities in the Midlands could be approached with similar projects. However, she emphasised that student placements are not guaranteed and that staffing levels and capacity constraints at the Birthplace mean that placements are limited. Cllr A Hughes concurred, echoing concerns regarding capacity.

(5.) Cllr A Hughes asked if the Workroom panels had been recently installed. The MHO confirmed this, stating that they had been fitted in September 2025 before the Johnson Birthday

Celebrations. Cllr A Hughes thanked Cllr R Yardley for taking images for the new Workroom interpretation. Cllr R Yardley asked when the touchscreen in the Workroom will be operational. The MHO explained that due to delays with the sub-contractors used by Vertigo, she did not have a clear answer. The MHO said that she is currently chasing them on the matter and is hoping to receive a response soon.

Cllr J Anketell asked if visitor numbers had increased and if admission to the museum was still free. The MHO clarified that numbers were up and that the museum was still free to enter.

RESOLVED: The report be noted.

4. DEVELOPMENT PROJECT – PROPOSALS FOR 2026/27

The Committee considered the MHO's report on proposals for 2026/2027 as set out in the table below:

Proposed 2026/27 project		Budget (£ excluding VAT)	Funding Source
A	Free use of the Guildroom for the audience consultation project on Tuesday, 18 November 2025.	£0	N/A
B	Marketing Strategy consultant	£4,500	Revenue
C	Staff and volunteer inclusion training	£3,700	Revenue
D	Replacement of broken interactive in Dictionary Room	£4,400	Capital
E	125th anniversary celebration event and mini pop-up exhibition	£2,500	Revenue
F	Secure storage solutions	£5,300	Capital
G	Quinquennial inspection	£2,500	Capital
H	Structural surveys including load bearing	£2,500	Capital
I	Strategic planning support – interpretation strategy and historic building assessment	£11,500	Revenue
J	Measured survey	£2,500	Revenue
Total		£39,400	

Cllr A Hughes congratulated the MHO for securing funding for the audience consultation project, *Opening Chapters*.

(C.) Cllr R Yardley questioned whether the staff and volunteer inclusion training was necessary as the Birthplace team seem to already provide an adequate welcome and reception for visitors. The MHO explained that staff had asked for this training at Birthplace staff meetings, wanting to be equipped with knowledge on the best ways to address certain scenarios with visitors and how to talk about difficult histories. The MHO explained that this form of training is standard within businesses and museums, adding that the Birthplace needs to reflect cotemporary practices as its audience grows, ensuring that the team are able to offer the best possible welcome and experience for visitors. Furthermore, as there are members of the team who identify as neurodivergent (for example), this type of training would enable the team to better support one another.

(D.) J Winterton asked whether an analogue version of the dictionary interactive would be more limited than a digital version, given that it would only allow a set number of possible words and combinations. The MHO explained that the designer, Vertigo, believes an analogue interactive may be preferable, as it would be less likely to break and would not rely on electricity. However, the MHO acknowledged that younger audiences may prefer a format more familiar to them, such as a tablet or other digital interactive. She added that the decision on whether to create an analogue or digital interactive would be informed by the ongoing audience consultation at the Birthplace.

Before discussing proposals F to J, the MHO explained their significance, stating the need to establish a solid foundation in order to give the Birthplace the best chances of securing major funding for future redevelopment. While the proposed budget represents a significant investment, this work would ensure the team can make more informed decisions, leading to better project planning, and the long-term preservation of the building, with or without external funding. The MHO reiterated that these plans would still be led internally, but work with consultants would ensure credibility, alignment with sector standards, and compliance with funder expectations, while allowing the Birthplace team to continue day-to-day operations of the museum.

(G.) Cllr J Eagland asked if a different architectural consultant was being used for the quinquennial report. The MHO explained that the previous quinquennial report was not comprehensive enough, so an alternative architectural firm that Lichfield City Council have recently worked with would be used. The MHO stated that this firm have vast experience working on historic buildings, and have already discovered significant work needed to the rear elevation of the building that was not identified in the previous report, confirming the need to change architects.

(H.) J Winterton pointed out that an increase in visitor numbers could become an issue when examined in the context of the building's load bearing capacities. The MHO agreed, stating the need to ensure the building is structurally safe for years to come.

Cllr J Anketell complimented the MHO on the increased visitor figure, asking if groups had access to toilets at the Birthplace. The MHO explained that there are established arrangements for certain groups or events, such as the use of the Guildhall toilets for schoolchildren and the use of the Birthplace's staff toilet during evening events at the Birthplace.

Cllr R Yardley asked if the MHO had considered the National Heritage Lottery Fund (NHLF) or other sources of funding. The MHO confirmed that she explores a range of funding opportunities, including the NHLF. She noted that the museum has recently received a small grant for the audience consultation project and support for the access audit, both of which are essential for establishing the scope and laying the groundwork for larger projects. The MHO added that securing major funding requires significant preparatory work—beyond what is currently proposed—such as a feasibility study to determine the museum's needs and priorities. She emphasised the importance of exploring multiple funding sources rather than relying on a single funder, as some may support development phases.

A Thompson said that the MHO's information on funding was helpful but questioned whether the Committee wished to pursue major redevelopment, and whether that level of ambition should be the current aim. Cllr A Hughes stated that the museum is a glory of Lichfield, and whilst the Council do not have much in the way of extra funding, the museum building requires continued care, ensuring that the museum is making the best of itself. Cllr A Hughes explained that the MHO's proposals were lucid, but that £40,000 is more than the Council usually supplies; however, she hoped that the Committee would be ambitious and support bigger opportunities.

The MHO reiterated that the proposed projects would allow the Council to take a long-term approach rather than applying a temporary fix, helping to prevent future issues, ensure the museum's longevity, and make sure that any investment is not wasted. A Thompson said there should be a change in approach and suggested reprioritising and asking for a smaller amount before progressing to larger requests. Cllr J Eagland proposed that the MHO create a priority list, with the most important proposals addressed first; this was supported by Cllr P McDermott and Cllr R Yardley. Cllr Eagland also recommended approaching local charities in Lichfield for funding, noting that they are often very supportive. Cllr J Anketell added that Committee members with connections to local charities should share those details with the MHO.

The Town Clerk noted that proposals B to E may be more likely to attract alternative funding, and the Committee may wish to request funds from Council for those items where alternative funding is less likely.

The MHO explained that many of the items, particularly F to J, are not eligible for external funding, such as those relating to storage and building reports. She added that while alternative funding could be explored for proposals B to E, staff capacity is a significant limitation, as the MHO is the only full-time member of staff and the MSO works part-time, alongside the demands of day-to-day museum operations. The MHO noted that many museums have dedicated fundraising roles because sourcing external funding is time-consuming and often requires specialist skills. She emphasised that she will always pursue available funding opportunities but acknowledged the limitations created by current staffing levels. The MHO agreed to look for alternative funding for items B to E; however, if funding cannot be secured and no budget is allocated, these items will not proceed or would need to be returned to JBAC for further consideration. It was agreed that alternative opportunities for funding would be explored and that JBAC would be updated in due course, with the possibility of JBAC making recommendations to Council that some or all the unfunded items be funded internally.

On being put to the vote, it was agreed that proposals F-J (as set out in the table above) be put forward to council for consideration of 2026/27 funding.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

- 1. That free use of the Guildroom be provided for the audience consultation event on 18 November**
- 2. That the following projects be favourably considered for 2026/27 funding by council at its January 2026 budget setting meeting:**

Proposed 2026/27 project		Budget (£ excluding VAT)	Funding Source
F	Secure storage solutions	£5,300	Capital
G	Quinquennial inspection	£2,500	Capital
H	Structural surveys including load bearing	£2,500	Capital
I	Strategic planning support – interpretation strategy and historic building assessment	£11,500	Revenue
J	Measured survey	£2,500	Revenue
Total		£24,300	

5. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

In the calendar of meetings as Wednesday 6 May 2026 at 10.30am in the Moulton Room, Guildhall.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS
THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 11:45am**

JBAC: 6 MAY 2026 APPENDIX 1

Samuel Johnson Birthplace Museum 2025/26 Annual Report

Visitor Numbers

2025/26 21,436	2024/25 19,012	2023/24 17,563	2022/23 14,807	2021/22 10,607
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Visitor numbers continued to show strong and sustained growth throughout 2025/26. Total attendance increased by approximately 13% compared to 2024/25, and by over 22% compared to 2023/24. This upward trend reflects the Birthplace’s growing profile and its increasing appeal to both new and returning visitors.

A quarterly comparison with the previous reporting year shows a particularly strong performance in the first half of the year:

Apr-Jun 2024	3,766	Jul-Sep 2024	6,247
April-Jun 2025	5,869	Jul-Sep 2025	7,126
Quarter 1 difference:	+55%	Quarter 2 difference:	+14%
Oct-Dec 2024	4,471	Jan-Mar 2025	4,528
Oct-Dec 2025	4,407	Jan-Mar 2026	4,034
Quarter 3 difference:	-1%	Quarter 4 difference:	-11%

Between April and June, visitor numbers rose from 3,766 in 2024 to 5,869 in 2025, representing an increase of 55%. This positive trend continued into the second quarter (July to September), with attendance increasing from 6,247 to 7,126, a rise of 14%.

Performance in the second half of the year was more variable. In Quarter 3 (October to December), visitor numbers remained broadly consistent with the previous year, showing a slight decrease of 1% (from 4,471 to 4,407). This marginal decline is likely attributable to external factors, most notably the Victorian Market. As this large-scale event was announced later in the year, it coincided with the Birthplace’s Christmas programme and appears to have diverted some footfall away from the site.

In Quarter 4 (January to March), visitor numbers decreased by 11%, from 4,528 in 2025 to 4,034 in 2026. This reduction can be partly attributed to a temporary closure period to allow for essential kitchen and toilet improvements, as well as a small number of additional closure days to facilitate staff conservation care training.

Overall, the year’s performance has been underpinned by a combination of factors, including enhancements to museum displays, a well-received events programme, the introduction of a new marketing leaflet, and a more active and strategic approach to digital communications.

Donations

2025/26 *£12,469.93	2024/25 £8,757.62	2023/24 £6,375.19	2022/23 £3,499.53	2021/22 £706.66
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Donations saw particularly encouraging growth, rising by approximately 42% compared to 2024/25. This reflects increasing visitor support and the generosity of the Birthplace’s community, with total donations reaching their highest level on record.

This significant increase can be attributed to a number of targeted improvements. These include enhancements to the donation point, the introduction of more prominent signage encouraging

contributions, and the proactive engagement of Museum Attendants in highlighting opportunities to donate.

It is anticipated that donation income will begin to stabilise in future reporting periods, as this year's increase is largely driven by the initial impact of the new donation point, which was installed in December 2024.

* This figure differs from the Johnson Birthplace Charitable Trust account statement (Appendix 3) as admissions and donations are shown separately in this report, whereas the Trust account presents a combined total. It also excludes a late contribution from Keele University, which was expected in a previous reporting period but has been accounted for separately.

Bookshop Sales

2025/26 £18,732.38	2024/25 £14,586.66	2023/24 £13,902.60	2022/23 £10,513.75	2021/22 £2,188.79
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In 2024/25, Bookshop sales rose by 5% compared to the previous year. This was an encouraging early indication of the impact of the improvements introduced in 2024, including a refreshed layout, the addition of new product lines, and enhanced external signage. It was anticipated that the full benefits of these changes would become more evident over time as awareness grew and visitor engagement deepened.

This has proven to be the case. In 2025/26, takings increased by 28% compared with 2024/25, and by 35% compared with 2023/24, demonstrating the strong and sustained impact of the initial investment and ongoing efforts to develop the Bookshop offer.

All figures are shown inclusive of VAT.

Admissions

2025/26 *£2,395.57	2024/25 £3,330.18	2023/24 £2,816.96	2022/23 £2,037.40	2021/22 £328.50
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Admissions—including guided tours, school visits, and special ticketed events—decreased by 28% compared to the previous year.

This change was primarily driven by a reduction in paying group visits, alongside a trend toward smaller group sizes than in previous years. At the same time, there has been an increase in self-guided, free visits. While these visits do not generate admissions income, they have likely contributed to higher donation levels and increased spend in the Bookshop, indicating continued strong engagement with visitors.

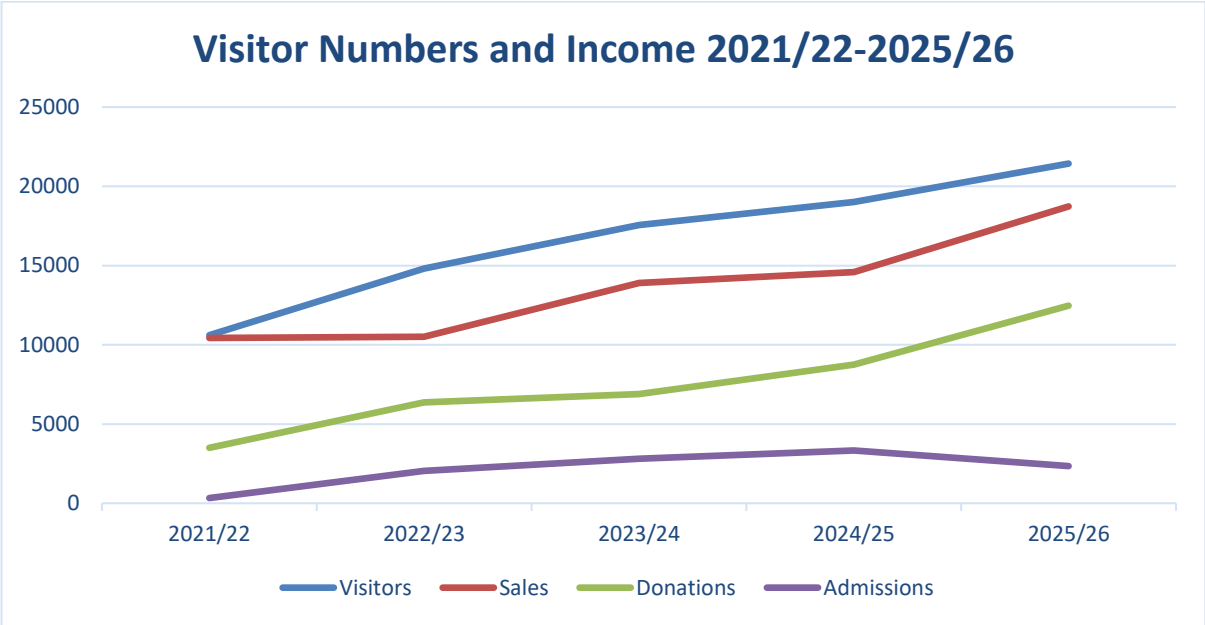
A secondary factor was a slight decline in attendance at the Birthplace's programme of talks. This may reflect increased competition, with a growing number of organisations in the city offering similar events, potentially leading to a more saturated market.

Although sector data for the 2025/26 financial year is not yet available, earlier insights in March 2025 from The Audience Agency¹ (a UK-based organisation that provides research and data on cultural audiences) identified wider trends across the museum sector, including smaller group sizes, later booking patterns, and a notable decline in large group visits. Their findings also highlight particular challenges in the schools market, noting that rising costs, declining participation in arts and humanities subjects, and increased financial pressures on families are contributing to reduced demand for school visits. This suggests that the challenges outlined above are not unique to the Birthplace but are being experienced more broadly across the sector.

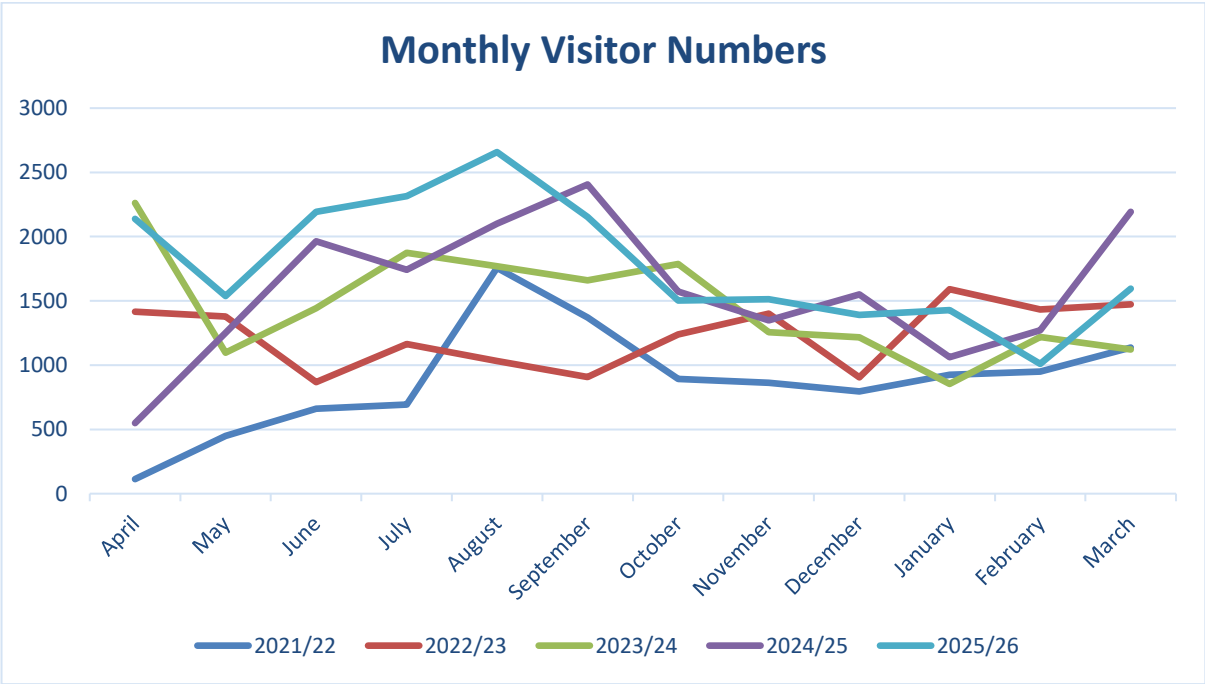
¹ The audience legacy of Covid, 2025: <https://theaudienceagency.org/en/news/audience-legacy-covid>

* Admissions income is shown inclusive of VAT. This figure differs from the Johnson Birthplace Charitable Trust account statement (Appendix 3) as admissions and donations are shown separately in this report, whereas the Trust account presents a combined total.

Overview of annual visitor numbers and income over the past five years:



Admissions refers to guided tours, schools, and special (ticketed) events.



2025/26 PRIORITIES UPDATE

1. Kitchen and toilet facilities improvements

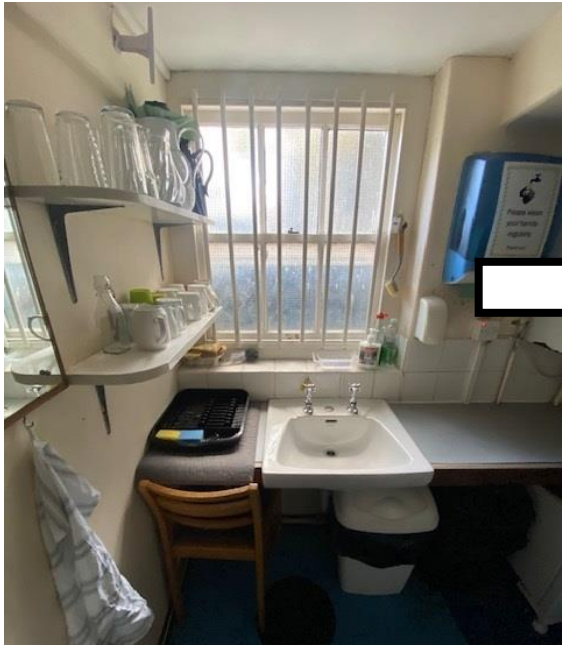
The Museum has successfully completed a programme of improvements to the staff kitchen and welfare facilities, delivered with Listed Building Consent and specialist conservation oversight. A short closure in February enabled the works to be carried out safely and efficiently.

The project focused on upgrading facilities while protecting the historic fabric of the Grade I listed building. Works included the reconfiguration and refurbishment of the kitchen, with new units, appliances, and hygienic work surfaces, alongside improved storage and redecoration. The WC was also upgraded, including the installation of a compact integrated toilet and handwash basin to improve hygiene.

Further improvements included heating and upgraded ventilation, a new water heater, plumbing and drainage enhancements, and additional electrical sockets. All works were carefully designed to use existing service routes and minimise impact on the historic structure.

The project required detailed planning to meet conservation and regulatory requirements, including the preparation of Listed Building Consent and technical designs. External funding support was secured through the City Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) process.





2. Francis Barber interpretation

As noted in the previous JBAC report, this work has now been completed, with four new interpretation panels installed in the London Life room. These panels address a previously identified gap in the Museum's interpretation.

Previously, Barber's story was only briefly referenced on site, despite his important role in Johnson's later life and legacy. The new interpretation responds to visitor feedback calling for greater recognition of his life and supports a more inclusive and representative account of Johnson's story.

The panels have been well received and contribute to a richer and more engaging visitor experience.



3. Installation of Sun-X conservation blinds to protect objects from damage caused by light exposure

New blinds have been installed throughout the museum. Designed for heritage environments, they reduce light exposure while still allowing exterior views, helping to protect sensitive objects from damaging lux and UV radiation. Using existing fittings and pre-existing holes, the installation minimised any impact on the building's historic fabric, improving both collection care and the visitor experience.



4. Conservation report and training

The conservation health check was completed by Birmingham Museums Trust's Conservation Manager, covering the Birthplace, the storeroom at Donegal House, and the Silver Safe. A detailed conservation report has been produced, providing a strategic overview of the collection's storage conditions, identifying key priorities, and setting out practical recommendations for preventative care.

The report forms an important component of the Museum's Collections Care and Conservation Plan, supporting Accreditation requirements and strengthening the Museum's approach to long-term collections management.

To support implementation, a programme of conservation training has been delivered for staff and volunteers by specialist conservators from Birmingham Museums Trust. The sessions focused on object handling and packing, the agents of deterioration and environmental monitoring, and integrated pest management. These sessions have strengthened internal knowledge and capacity, supporting improved day-to-day care of the collection.

Together, the report and training represent a significant step forward in developing a more proactive and informed approach to collections care, helping to safeguard the Museum's objects, archives, and historic interiors for the future.

5. Workroom – additional interpretation

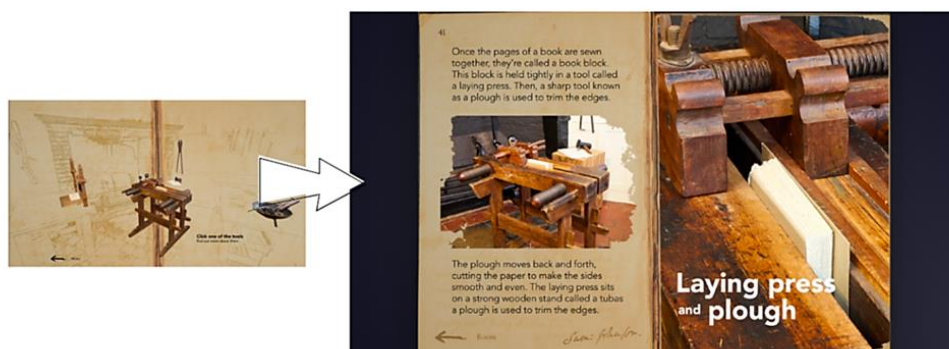
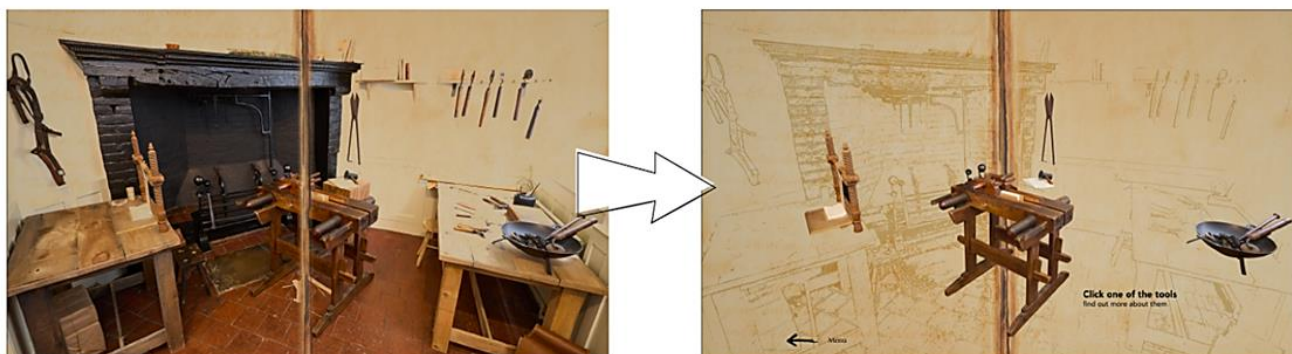
Significant enhancements have been made to interpretation within the Workroom, introducing a combination of physical and digital elements to enrich the visitor experience and improve understanding of the space.

Three new interpretation panels have been installed, which explore the Johnson family's early life in the house, the role of Kitty Chambers (the family servant who later became a bookseller), and the

building's later uses. Together, they provide a broader view of both the household and the site's evolving history.

These physical additions are complemented by a new digital touchscreen, including *Tools of the Trade*, an interactive feature enabling visitors to explore the bookbinding tools on display in detail, supported by images and interpretive text. The content is enhanced by high-quality photography by Robert Yardley, bringing visual clarity and impact to the interpretation.

Together, these improvements have significantly strengthened the presentation of the Workroom, supporting learning, engagement, and a more comprehensive understanding of the site's layered history.



6. Professional valuations for insurance

To ensure appropriate insurance coverage and maintain accurate collection records, the Birthplace has undertaken a programme of professional valuations for key items within the collection. While valuations were previously completed in 2010 and 2020, many significant objects, including manuscripts and other high-value items, had not been formally reviewed since the 1990s. On the recommendation of the Museum's auditor, this work was prioritised for update.

The Museum has worked with Winterton's to carry out revised valuations, with the process now nearing completion. The final valuation report is currently being prepared, after which discussions will take place with the Museum's insurers to ensure appropriate coverage is in place.

Following this, updated valuation information will be incorporated into the Museum's collections database, strengthening both documentation standards and collection management processes.

7. Student development project – Keele University partnership

Building on a previously successful Keele University PhD placement, the Museum sought to extend the partnership in 2025 through a shorter-term, project-based student placement. In discussion with the University, key barriers were identified, including limited access to travel funding, project costs, and the need for clearly defined placement opportunities. In response, the Museum developed a structured placement project supported by a dedicated budget.

Working with Keele's Projects and Placements Manager, the opportunity was designed and advertised in late 2024. Initial uptake was limited, with only one applicant who ultimately withdrew due to other commitments. Following further liaison with the University, the placement was re-promoted through their next placements cycle in 2025. Due to the timing of this cycle, the overall delivery period for the project was more limited than originally anticipated.

A student was successfully recruited and commenced their placement in November 2025. Their project, *Signed, Sealed, Delivered: Exploring Letters in the 1700s*, focuses on the interpretation of historical correspondence for public audiences. As part of this work, the student has developed a small pop-up exhibition featuring selected items from the Museum's collection, including three letters by Samuel Johnson and one by Anna Seward, alongside David Garrick's wax seal, supported by interpretive panels. The display is scheduled for installation at the beginning of May and will be on show until October.

In addition, the student has produced draft content for a complementary digital output, which will take the form of either an online exhibition or a blog post, extending the reach of the project beyond onsite visitors.

Communication with the University during the delivery phase was limited; however, the placement was supported and supervised by the Birthplace team to ensure completion. While the project required adaptation in response to recruitment challenges and a compressed timetable, it has ultimately delivered a focused and tangible outcome. It has provided the student with practical experience in research and interpretation, while contributing a new, audience-facing display.

JOHNSON BIRTHPLACE CHARITABLE TRUST ACCOUNT STATEMENT

Johnson Birthplace Charitable Trust Account- Statement									
Year	Opening Balance	Income				Spending			Closing Balance
		Grants	Bequests	Donations Admissions. Blum Sales	Total Income	LCC Transfer	Payments	Total Spending	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
2025/26 Draft outturn	11,740	-	-	*14,773	14,773	14,753	-	14,753	11,760

RECOMMENDED: That the following be noted.

- 1. The Report and Out-Turn Statement 2025/26 will be submitted to the Audit committee 02/06/2026.**
- 2. The Council, acting in the capacity of sole Trustee of the Johnson Birthplace Charitable Trust, will be asked to make a payment of £14,753 from the Trust Funds to the City Council as the contribution to the expenditure incurred by the City Council in operating the Museum during the 2025/26 financial year.**

* This figure differs from the Museums and Heritage Officer's annual report (Appendix 1) as admissions are shown exclusive of VAT, it includes a late contribution from Keele University which was anticipated in an earlier reporting period but not received at that time, and it includes Blum Fund book sales.