



CHANCE
HERITAGE
TRUST

**Memorandum of Understanding
between
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC)
and
Chance Heritage Trust (CHT)
collectively described below as the Parties**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Parties are committed jointly to work together with other bodies, organisations, agencies, community organisations and the like to ensure that;
Sandwell's industrial heritage assets have the potential to make a major contribution to learning and skills development, social inclusion, community engagement, economic regeneration and place-making, for the benefit of all Sandwell's diverse communities, creating economic, social and environmental benefits for the future.
- 1.2 1.2 This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is not exhaustive and it is not intended to be legally binding and does not create legal obligations. The parties will have no legal obligations or liability until the parties enter into a legally binding agreement.
- 1.3 For the avoidance of doubt, CHT enters this Memorandum of Understanding in its capacity as a vehicle for regenerating heritage assets in Sandwell. Whilst it has a wider remit the purpose of MOU is to focus on the Galton Valley landscape and specifically, at present, the Chance Glassworks and the Soho Foundry and Mint.
- 1.4 SMBC enters this Memorandum of Understanding in its capacity as lead public body for regeneration in Sandwell. The Chance Glasswork and the Soho Foundry and Mint are both heritage regeneration priorities included in the approved Regeneration Pipeline for Sandwell.

2. Background

- 2.1 Sandwell's industrial heritage is unique. From the late 18th century onwards, the area was at the forefront of the Industrial Revolution. This complex industrial landscape of canals, railways, factories, houses and public buildings can tell internationally important stories about how this region led the world in engineering, manufacturing, entrepreneurialism, local government and social reform.

The Chance Brothers Glassworks and Soho Foundry and Mint sites anchor the ends of the Galton Valley Conservation Area and represent two important phases in Sandwell's story.

The two sites lie in industrial Smethwick, one of the most diverse and deprived areas of the UK. The Smethwick Summit – Galton Valley Conservation Area defines a linear industrial landscape in the West Midlands conurbation containing a complex of canals: part of the unique Birmingham Canal Navigations Network, they represent almost the entire period of canal-building from 1768 onwards. During the Industrial Revolution the network served a hinterland of manufacturing and extractive industries, of which these sites are two of the most important survivors.

CHT plan to restore them to a new working life in conjunction with a wide range of partners. CHT is a community-owned and led organisation leading on large-scale, urban regeneration with the community at the heart of our work. The projects CHT work on address many of the issues arising from multiple deprivation and economic regeneration.

3. JOINT APPROACH

3.1 The Parties agree that they shall work together to realise the potential of Sandwell's significant industrial heritage assets to make a positive impact on economic regeneration of the area and to maximise the benefit to the local community through place-making and cultural activities.

3.2 CHT and SMBC will collaborate on a wide range of activities with the aim of regenerating these two heritage assets and this will include but not limited to the following:

- Master-Planning
- Funding Bids to external bodies
- Allocation of Grant Funding (subject to any necessary Grant Agreement) (from SMBC to CHT) to support Business Case Development and other activities
- Surveys and other technical assessment of all heritage assets on these sites
- Collaborate with Historic England on relevant issues
- Site Assembly as appropriate
- Use of the Compulsory Purchase Order powers of the Council if deemed appropriate
- Collaboration on heritage or other appropriate designations that might assist regeneration

Any planning applications will be dealt with by the Council in its role as Local Planning Authority and this function falls outside of this MOU Agreement.

4. Effect of this Memorandum

4.1 Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding shall interfere with or prejudice the statutory or other rights and obligations of the Parties, and the identification by the Parties of the objectives referred to above is not intended to be a representation that the Parties have the specific statutory or other authority to fulfil any of the objectives set out.

5. Confidentiality

5.1 The Parties shall observe confidentiality in respect of any elements of this Memorandum of Understanding which may be commercially sensitive. The MOU itself shall be a public document.

Approved by Cabinet of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council on XXXX

Signed on behalf of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Signature

Print name.....

Position

Date

Signed on behalf of Chance Heritage Trust

Signature

Print name.....

Position

Date