



Hartlepool
Borough Council

OFFICER DECISION RECORD

Department: Adult and Community Based Services

Division:

Date of Decision / Issue
of Licence: 22/10/2025

Officer Making Decision: MRS J HARRISON

Subject / Description &
Reason for Decision:
(for publication)

Acquisition of bus driver uniforms to the museum collection offered as a donation.

The proposed acquisition consists of two complete sets of bus driver uniforms, each comprising jacket, trousers, epaulettes, and sew-on badge. One set is branded for Hartlepool Transport, the municipal transport company, while the other is branded for Stagecoach, which acquired Hartlepool Transport in December 1994. The survival of both uniforms from the same owner provides a rare and tangible record of a pivotal moment in Hartlepool's transport history, marking the end of municipal ownership and the transition to private operation.

These uniforms are significant for the museum's social history and costume collections as they represent the working lives of local people in the service industries during the late 20th century—a period underrepresented in current holdings. They also illustrate the impact of national policy changes, such as bus deregulation, on the daily lives and identities of local workers.

Opportunities for display include themed exhibitions on local employment, transport history, uniforms and workwear, and the economic and social changes of the 1980s–1990s. Displaying both uniforms together allows for direct visual comparison, highlighting continuity and change in branding, design, and corporate identity.

Relevance to Acquisitions policy / plan:
This acquisition directly supports the museum's Costume and Textiles collecting priorities (sections 3.4 and 4.4 of the Collections Development Policy), which aim to represent the social and working lives of people of Hartlepool and surrounding districts, with a particular interest in collecting work uniforms relating to local services.

While fishing and shipbuilding are noted priority industries, the policy also identifies local shops, trades, and services as areas for development. Public transport was—and remains—a key service in Hartlepool, employing many local people and connecting communities. The acquisition also aligns with the Social and Industrial History collecting priorities, which seek to reflect trades and professions, public service work, and the changing economic patterns of the borough.

Notes on related objects in the collection:
This acquisition would fill a chronological gap in the uniform collection, which currently focuses on 1900–1960, by adding material from the 1990s, enabling the museum to tell a more continuous story of workwear in the town

Type of Decision:

Non Key

Nature of Delegation
Being Exercised:

Acquisition proposal

Alternative Options
Considered & Rejected:

None.

Any Declared Register of Interest: No

Other Considerations:

OFFICER WITH THE DELEGATION

NAME: MRS J HARRISON

POSITION:

IN CONSULTATION WITH...

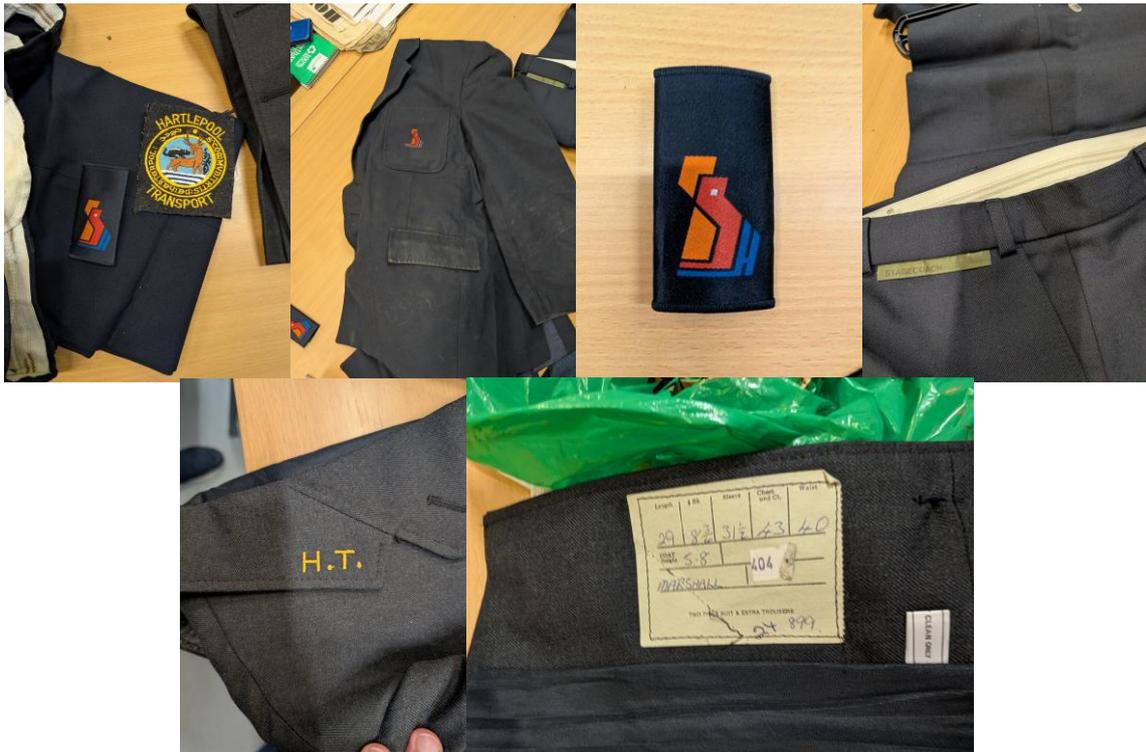
NAME: Pam Hargreaves

POSITION: Councillor

ACQUISITION PROPOSAL

Hartlepool Art and Museums Service

Name of object (and total number of objects): 10 items of bus driver uniform



Title/object: Hartlepool bus driver uniform c.1994

Entry Form No:

Name:

Date of work:

Description:

Material/process: Various textiles

Size: Various

Country Produced in: Unknown

Region/City/Locality Produced in: unknown

Notes on item:

Creator / Artist:

Name(s):

Date of Birth:

Date of Death (if applicable):

Place of Birth:

Place of Death (if applicable):

Address:

References (bibliographic):

Provenance (ownership history):

Offered by Russell McAndrew, Robert Wood volunteer as part of his house clearance.

Assessment of object's significance for collection (including opportunities for display):

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Relevance to other local museums:

To our knowledge, no other local museums in the immediate area hold comparable Hartlepool Transport or early Stagecoach Hartlepool uniforms. Transport-related collections in the wider Tees Valley tend to focus on railway heritage or on larger regional bus operators such as United or Cleveland Transit. Acquiring and preserving these uniforms ensures that Hartlepool's specific municipal and post-municipal transport history is documented locally and not lost from the public record.

Additional comments:

The dual-uniform nature of this acquisition makes it particularly valuable, as it allows the museum to interpret both the individual worker's career and the broader structural changes in Hartlepool's transport provision. The uniforms are also in keeping with the museum's contemporary collecting aims, which seek to reflect recent and ongoing changes in local industries and services.

Their connection to a named local bus driver offers potential for oral history or community engagement work, further enhancing their interpretive value. Display opportunities could be enhanced through accompanying photographs, timetable ephemera, or oral testimonies from transport workers, situating the uniforms within the lived experience of Hartlepool in the 1990s.

Condition information: *(including potential hazards)*

While the uniforms are intact and in excellent condition, they have been stored for some years in plastic bags so would benefit from dry cleaning.

Implications of purchase: *(Major treatment, external conservator, display problems, storage problems, limited life, copyright restrictions):***Collection Management requirements****Costs****Associated Acquisition costs:**

<i>Agents fees:</i>	N/a	
<i>Travel/accommodation:</i>	N/a	
<i>Crating/packing:</i>	N/a	
<i>Freight:</i>	N/a	
<i>Insurance:</i>	N/a	
<i>Customs:</i>	N/a	
<i>Record photography:</i>		
<i>Other costs:</i>		

Storage:

<i>Intended collection storage locality:</i>	SWGH Main Store (following freezing and cleaning)		
<i>Is space available:</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
<i>Preservation and storage costs:</i>			
<i>Other costs</i>			
			Total cost: c. £50

Acquisition approval Purchase Bequest Donation Commissioned for collection Field collection**Acquired from:** *(Name of the vendor, donor, auction firm or dealer. If it is presented by an agent such as executor, family member etc this should be recorded in MODES):***Name:** Russell McAndrew**Address:****Total cost of acquisition:**Purchase price *(including buyer's premium; excluding GST):* £0All associated costs *(from p.2):* £50**Valuation:**

Valuation: £ N/A

Valuer:

*Appraisal source: (Purchase price/Market valuation/if other, state):***Acquisition proposal:**Proposed by: Angela
Thomas

Date: 11/08/2025