

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This has been an unprecedented 15 months in the life of the GAC with the impact of the pandemic on the operation of the Jet Age Museum through 3 lockdowns, the imposition of covid secure measures on our limited re-openings, as well as the need to set up the Covid Recovery Team to manage the museum through closures, re-openings and a time of financial uncertainty.

In the autumn and winter of 2019/2020 we were busy developing our strategy for future funding of Phase 2 B/C and came down in favour of a National Lottery Heritage Fund bid for £1.9 million. This was overtaken by events and after being suspended in April 2020, all bids had to be abandoned- the focus was on grants to enable museums to survive closure and loss of income.

The Trustees have continued to meet either virtually or face to face over the months and among the matters under discussion and review have been Governance and Management in the winter of 2020/2021, the need to focus available capital funds on improvements such as CCTV and internet provision.

The decision has also been made to expedite the bringing into use Phase 2 North for our visitors to enhance income through donations whilst we plan to start tours of our engineering workspace to enable our visitors to see future exhibits under restoration. We are installing a new fire door in Phase 1 to restore capacity to 300 persons. We will shortly restart preparation of our bid for Lottery funding which will respond to the new criteria for Heritage grants.

We have had some successes in securing funding for projects such as the provision of air conditioning for our Trident airliner exhibit. We are also participating in a Southwest Museums Development Project to improve audience participation and future volunteer recruitment.

Finally we have encountered major differences between our engineers and Trustees as to how the museum and the engineering department should operate in Phase 2 which have led to a 3 week period of shut down by way of a cooling off period before further considerations are made. Trustees will advise GAC members of the outcome of these considerations at the earliest opportunity.

Tony Sangwine