



CHANCE HERITAGE TRUST

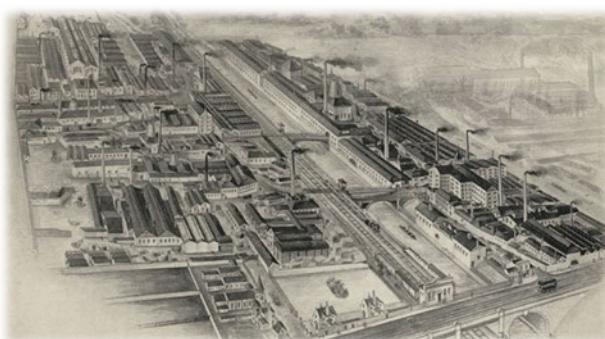
INVITATION TO TENDER for Community Engagement Project Tender 14th December 2021

Chance Glassworks and Soho Foundry & Mint



1. Introduction

- 1.1 On behalf of Chance Heritage Trust (CHT) you are invited to tender for the delivery of a community engagement programme to inform proposals for the redevelopment of the Chance Brothers Glassworks and Soho Foundry and Mint sites in Sandwell. The project is funded by a Community Renewal Fund Grant.
- 1.2 The Chance Brothers Glassworks and Soho Foundry and Mint sites, anchoring the ends of the Galton Valley Conservation Area part of the Black Country UNESCO Geo Park, represent two important phases in Sandwell's story. CHT plans to restore them to new working life. Because CHT is a community-owned and led organisation leading on large-scale, urban regeneration, the community is at the heart of our work. The projects we work on address the issues arising from multiple deprivation, including the impact of the pandemic. The impact of the regeneration of these two sites will have enormous positive impact on the whole area.



2. Chance Heritage Trust

- 2.1 CHT is a charitable Community Benefit Society registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 having initially been incorporated as a charity and company limited by guarantee 2015.

2.2 The aim of the Trust is to enrich the community with the restoration and protection of buildings and assets of cultural and heritage importance.

3. Background

3.1 Chance Glassworks

The former Chance Brothers Glassworks was the world's leading glass manufacturer and a pioneer of British glass-making technology and operated for over 150 years from 1824 to 1976. The factory closed in 1981. Chance Bros. manufactured the glass for the Crystal Palace constructed for the Great Exhibition in 1851 and engineered the lighthouses which were built around the British Isles and throughout the Empire. Today these lighthouses remain a famous part of seascapes all over the world. The site is a Scheduled Monument by virtue of the significant areas of archaeological survival that are known to exist within the site including the bases of up to six furnaces and associated major tunnels and flues. The site also contains eight Grade II listed buildings, the most notable being the highly visible 'Seven Storey' building. The buildings are in varying degrees of deterioration and disrepair.

3.2 Soho Foundry and Mint

The second site is Soho Foundry and Mint. The Foundry was constructed in 1795 for the manufacture of steam engines, the first dedicated factory of this kind in the world. It was of pivotal importance to the Industrial Revolution and the development and evolution of mass production techniques. Closely associated with the pioneering endeavours of Boulton, Watt and Murdoch, the site became home to a new mint building in 1860. The Foundry is Grade II* Listed and a Scheduled Monument. The site was acquired by W&T Avery Ltd in 1895 and they continue to operate from a significant area of the site manufacturing weighing equipment. The Foundry and Mint buildings are now unused with a temporary roof protecting the Foundry structures.

4. Community Renewal Fund (CRF)

4.1 In May 2021 CHT submitted an application to the Community Renewal Fund for grant funding via the West Midlands Combined Authority to take forward further feasibility work across both the Chance Glassworks and Soho Foundry and Mint sites. The outcome of the application process announced on 3rd November confirmed that we had been successful and a grant agreement is currently being put in place between CHT and the West Midlands Combined Authority, the accountable body for the purposes of awarding and administering the grant. **The project must be completed by 30th June 2022.**

4.2 As part of the whole programme we are taking a strategic approach to the development of both sites with a view to securing recognition of their strategic importance and heritage-led regeneration potential. Our objective is to secure inclusion within the emerging Black Country Local Plan. We are aware the consultation closed in August 2020 but there is still an opportunity to advocate for inclusion in the final Plan due for publication in Autumn 2022 and further evidence of community support would be valuable.

4.3 Our intention is to commission various additional strands of work across both sites including:

- Feasibility design work including options (RIBA stages 0/1-2).
- Refresh of existing Business Case for Chance Glassworks and preparation of Outline Business Case for Soho Foundry following the principles of the Green Book five case model.
- Further research and preparation for archaeological investigations at Soho Foundry.

This appointment will run in parallel with the above workstreams.

5. Requirement

5.1 We are seeking to appoint a suitably qualified and experienced organisation to undertake the following:

Aims

1. Raise the profile of the two sites.
2. Consult on plans for future of Sandwell's industrial heritage.
3. Build our social media presence and contact database

6. Delivery

6.1 Programme of informal learning and engagement: aimed at a target audience of families with young children

- a. Sandwell's industry and landscape, past and present, with particular reference to Chance Brothers Glassworks and the Soho Foundry and Mint,
- b. Relevance of industry to STEM subjects
- c. The impact of industry on the climate and environment
- d. Events and activities: virtual sessions, visits to museums and heritage sites, discovery sessions, hands-on activities

6.2 Engagement project with targeted community groups and individuals to collect their stories about growing up, living and working in Sandwell and their countries of origin, celebrating the diversity of the area

6.3 Supporting participants in using creative arts to explore different ways of telling their stories

6.4 Offering training in techniques for investigating and recording heritage

6.5 Events to celebrate these two strands in advance of Commonwealth Games

7. Target audiences

The activities will primarily take place in the defined area of benefit for the project, ie Sandwell. They may include visits to museums and sites elsewhere.

Wards include: West Bromwich, St Pauls, Soho and Victoria, Smethwick, Abbey, Bristnall, Langley and Oldbury.

The Sandwell Community, in particular West Bromwich, St Pauls, Soho and Victoria, Smethwick, Abbey, Bristnall, Langley and Oldbury.

Groups representing the young, diverse population of Sandwell: primary school children and their families, including IED target groups; primary schools; voluntary groups; BAME; C2DE; wards scoring highly on the index of multiple deprivation; people with disabilities; wards, groups and individuals who have been badly affected by COVID-19

Partners

A number of potential partners have been identified: Sandwell MBC Arts and Museums, Friction Arts, Black Country Creative and the University of Birmingham. It is expected that the successful consultant will identify other local delivery partners in Sandwell, including arts, heritage and faith groups and individuals. We want to maximise existing community links and not replicate or duplicate activities in the area.

Social media, marketing and PR

Applicants should outline how they will use social media and other forms of marketing to attract and inform participants and raise the profile of the two sites and their activities.

8. Outcomes and Outcomes

1. 30 virtual or in person sessions for families and children at an average attendance of 20 = 600 individuals engaged in activities linking industrial heritage to STEM subjects and the natural environment.
2. 60 virtual or in person reminiscence, arts and heritage sessions at 8 per session = 480 adults engaging in community activities.
3. Increased number of social media followers.
4. 1080 people engaged with.
5. Final community events in May and or June in advance of the Commonwealth Games, celebrating the culture and heritage of Sandwell.
6. Evaluation report on community engagement, informing future plans for redevelopment and public provision at Chance Brothers Glassworks and Soho Foundry and Mint.

9. Branding

Branding - all materials and activities will feature CHT branding and all materials must meet our funder's branding and logo requirements.

10. Intellectual Property Rights & Data

CHT retain the rights to:

- a) intellectual property and materials funded through this project.
- b) Email addresses and contact details of individuals and organisations relating to this project activity

11. Costs

The proposals must include all expenditure required to deliver the project.

12. Evaluation

An evaluation report will be commissioned for the whole project. The successful tenderer agrees to fully cooperate in providing interviews and data requirements to fulfil the evaluation report.

To measure and understand impact and evaluate progress, bench-marking data will be collected from the outset to provide a basis for future measurement of the impact and progress of various aspects of the project.

The project will be broken down into elements to form a comprehensive list of KPI's and milestones CHT and our funders want to measure including items listed in this application.

Evaluation and impact will be measured through a small number of proxy measures including but not exclusively:

1. Number of Participants (by age, gender, cultural background, location)
2. Number and range of activity
3. Number of events
4. Audience engaged (face to face and virtual)

13. Timetable

13.1 We expect to appoint **w/c 20th January 2022** with a view to work commencing as soon as possible, but definitely by 1st February. Our target is to complete all work streams of activity by the end of **30th June 2022**.

14. Selection criteria

14.1 The criteria below will be used in order to select a consultant. An overall 95:5 quality: price weighting will be applied to the assessment of tenders with the quality weighting of 95% being further broken down as shown below (see percentages in brackets). 'Quality' in this instance includes other non-price criteria listed below including approach and experience.

95% Quality:

- a) Demonstration of the experience of your organisation in delivering projects which have a heritage context and are similar to those required under the project brief/scope of work (20%).
- b) Demonstration of the experience of the individual team members that you propose for this commission in delivering the outputs and outcomes that are required (10%).
- c) Provision of an outline programme stating the type of activities and how they would be delivered (25%).
- d) Demonstration of your capability and capacity to deliver the outputs and meet the deadline by June 30th 2022 (20%)
- e) Setting out of your tactical approach to delivering in the geographical area specified (10%).
- f) How you will work with delivery organisations in the area to avoid duplication (10%).

5% Price

15. Terms of Appointment

15.1 For the avoidance of doubt, CHT retains the right not to award any contract in relation to this Tender. CHT does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

Should CHT wish to award a contract, it will be awarded on the basis of who offered the best value, taking due account of relevant experience, previous performance on similar projects, the selection criteria set out at 14 and the service being value for money against the overall project budget. The CHT will assess the tenders against the criteria in 14

16. Fee submission

16.1 Maximum budget available for delivery of this project is £114,000.

16.2 The fee will be payable in three equal instalments: the first at the point at which CHT is in receipt of an initial tranche of CRF funding (anticipated end of January 2022); the second at the point CHT is in receipt of a further tranche of CRF

funding (anticipated end of March); and the third upon completion of the commission (end of June).

16.3 Fees should be tendered as a lump sum inclusive of all costs and expenses for the project but excluding VAT.

17. Submission details

17.1 Please **submit your tender in PDF format by 17.00 on 12th January** to the Chair of the Trust, Mark Davies, at the email address below:

mark.davies@chanceht.org

Any questions during the tender period should be addressed to Dr Ellen McAdam, at the mail address below:

ellen.mcadam@virginmedia.com

Contact number: 07808122816

Questions and responses during the tender period may be shared with other tenderers.

CHT does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender and reserves the right to cancel the tender process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract without incurring any liability to the affected bidders.

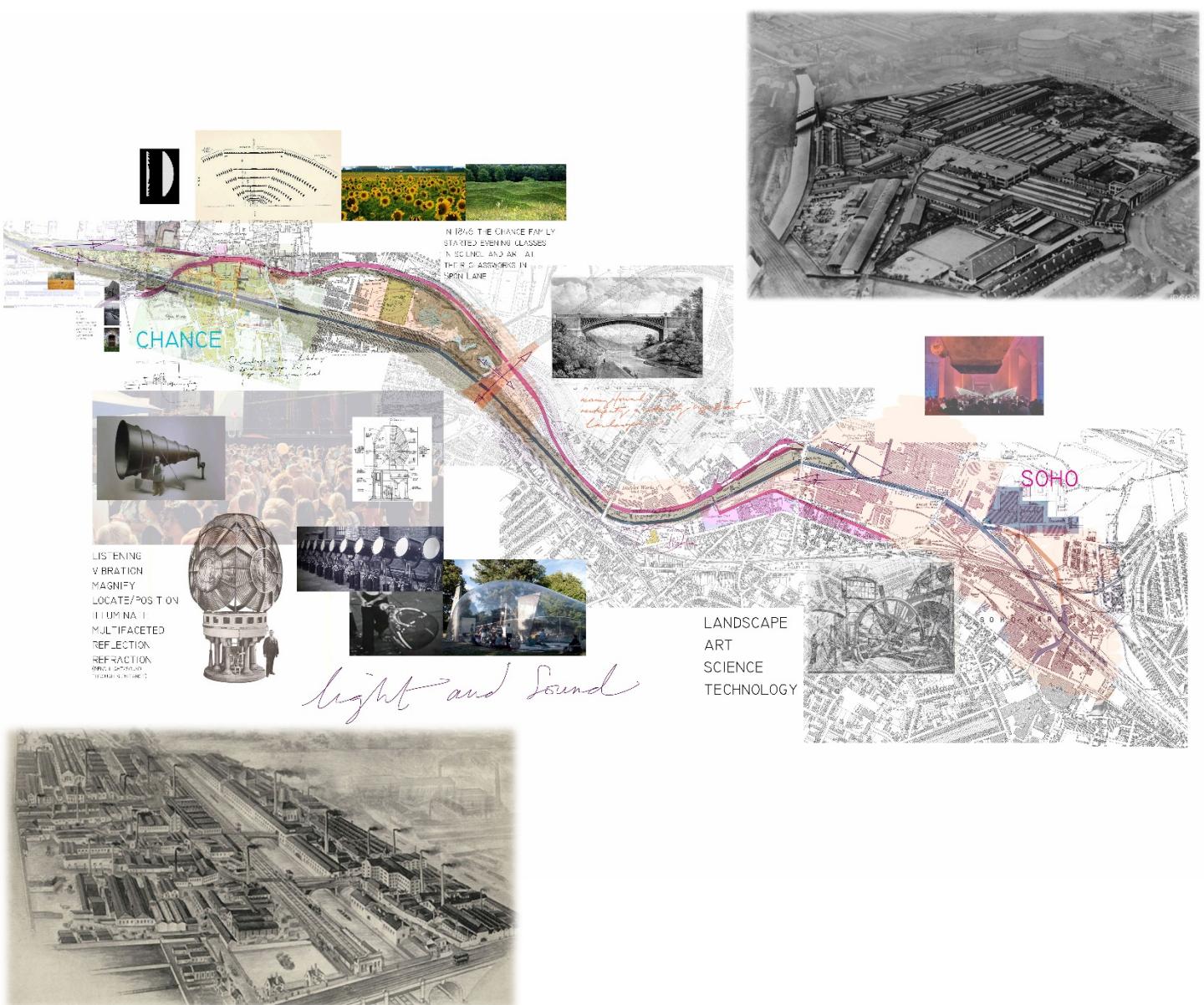
Under no circumstances will CHT be held liable for costs incurred in connection with this tender process.

APPENDICES

Appendix A Chance Heritage Trust - Project Overview Planning Brief
Appendix B Context from Bid



Chance Heritage Trust Summary and Proposal



Sandwell's industrial heritage

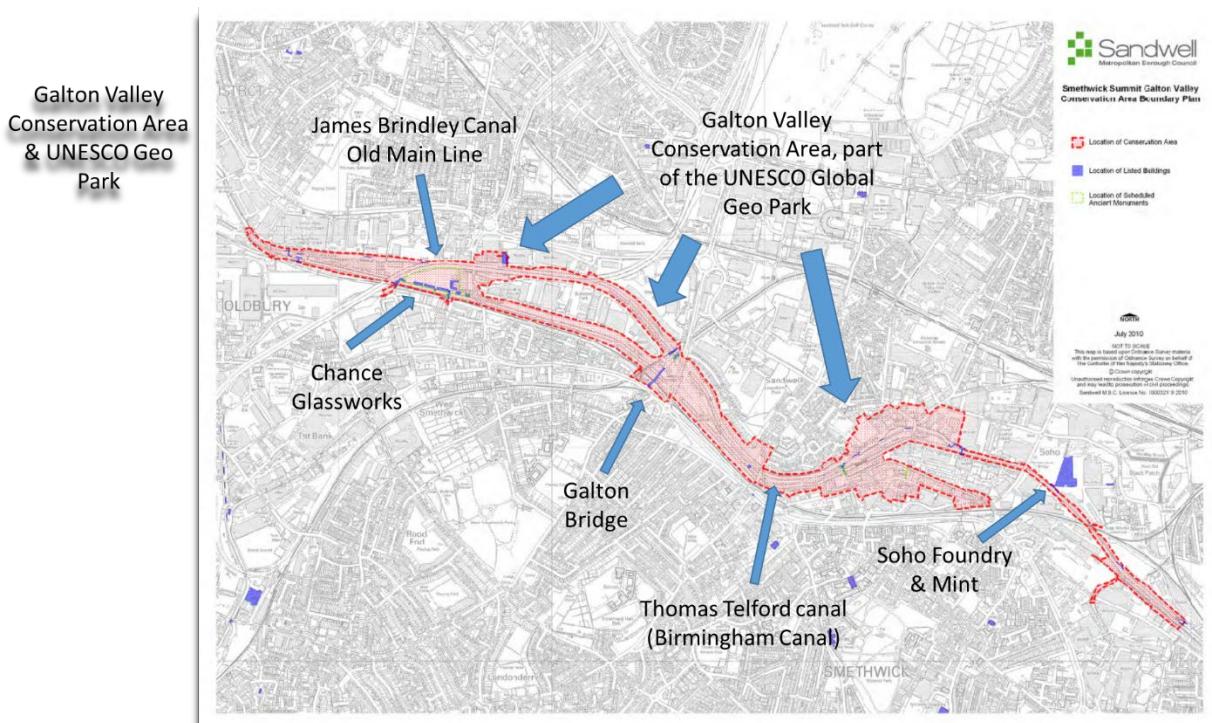
Sandwell's industrial heritage is unique. From the late 18th century onwards, the area was at the forefront of the Industrial Revolution.

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, enterprise, local government and social reform.



Behind them lie the human stories of over 200 years' of local history, of the men, women and children who grew up, lived and worked here. This is not a museum – this is life.

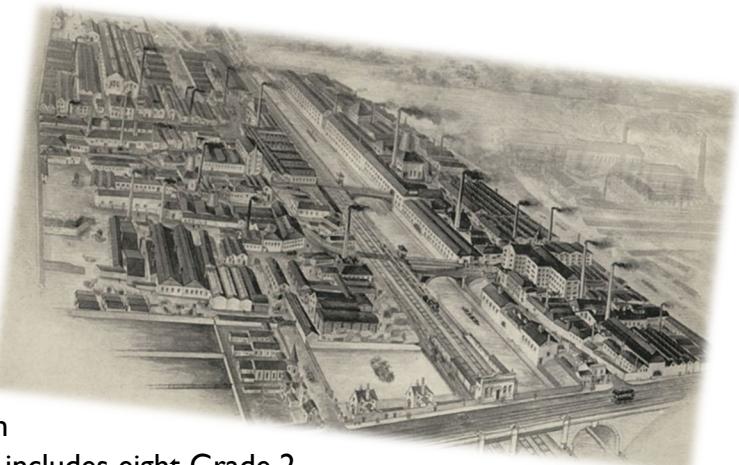
The Chance Brothers Glassworks and Soho Foundry and Mint sites, anchoring the ends of the Galton Valley Conservation Area, represent two important phases in Sandwell's story. The Chance Heritage Trust plans to restore them to new working life. Because CHT is a community-owned and led organisation leading on large-scale, urban regeneration, the community is at the heart of our work. The projects we work on address the issues arising from multiple deprivation, including the impact of the pandemic.



The UK's proud industrial heritage has been neglected. CHT believes that these heritage assets have the potential to make a major contribution to learning and skills development, social inclusion, economic regeneration and place-making, for the benefit of all Sandwell's diverse communities.

Chance Brothers Glassworks

Founded in 1824, Chance's was the largest glassmaker in the world. Always innovative and experimental, it made a wide range of glass products. Its international reach came from the 2,300 Chance lenses installed in lighthouses around the world. Chance's employed over 3,500 people, and were also local benefactors, founding West Smethwick Park, schools and a university department.



The 3 ha glassworks site on Spon Lane has been underused since the works closed in the 80s. It includes eight Grade 2 Listed buildings and is a Scheduled Monument. It is on Historic England's Heritage 'At Risk' register.



Regeneration has previously been hampered by many factors including fragmented land ownership, heritage issues, and site and prevailing market conditions.



Prolonged neglect has resulted in dereliction. The condition of the buildings continues to deteriorate and at least two are in imminent danger of collapsing onto the Birmingham Main Line towpath. CHT is unable to prevent this due to an incumbent leaseholder.

CHT is overcoming the barriers and has made significant progress over the last 5 years. We have secured the freehold of part of the site and have an Option Agreement on the Seven Storey Building, adjacent yard and workshop. Homes in Community Hands (Power to Change) have awarded a grant to enable BPN Architects Birmingham to produce a design proposal.



OUR VISION FOR CHANCE GLASSWORKS



'Regenerate Chance Glassworks to protect and celebrate its highly significant industrial heritage, to act as a beacon of hope and create a new vibrant, urban community generating employment, training, learning and leisure opportunities for all'

Our plans:

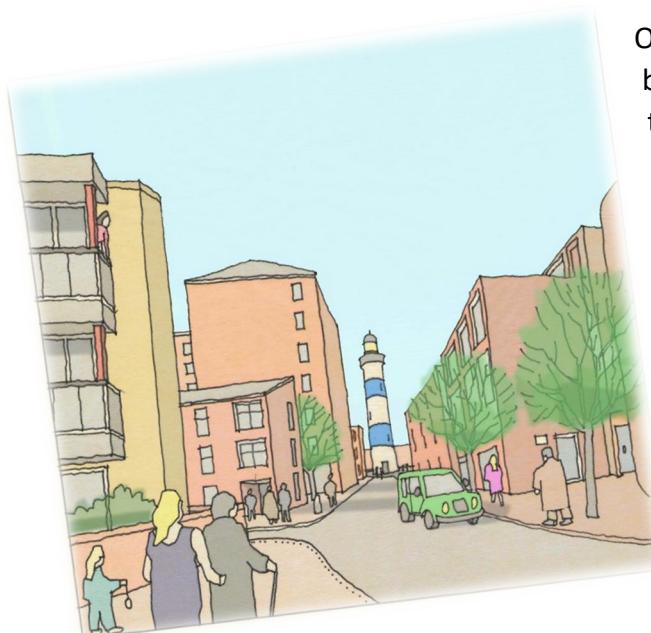
- ❖ Restore the existing eight Grade 2 Listed industrial heritage buildings for a mix of residential, leisure, cultural, education and employment use
- ❖ Create an 'urban village' of new homes, leisure, cultural, education and enterprise facilities
- ❖ Construct a 30m high lighthouse commemorating the site's heritage and acting as the physical manifestation of the vision for the site – a beacon of hope
- ❖ Reinstate the two former canal arms, reconnecting the Glassworks with the canals bringing animation to the site through water and boats
- ❖ Create a vibrant center for new enterprise development and training where budding entrepreneurs will be encouraged and supported

The Master Plan for the whole site Includes:

- Remediating nearly 3 hectares of brownfield site
- Removing one of Sandwell's most important industrial heritage buildings from Historic England's 'At Risk' Register
- Regenerating 7 Grade 2 Listed Buildings and 2 Grade 2 Listed Buildings
- Creating over 34,000 m² of floor space for residential, enterprise, educational and leisure space
- Providing over 190 residential units
- Building a 30 metre high lighthouse
- Creating over 750 jobs and 100 apprenticeships
- Providing a large scale community cultural, and leisure facility through maximising the use of the Brindley and Telford canals and towpaths for community activities and cultural events
- Creating an exciting destination gateway and major tourist destination for Sandwell

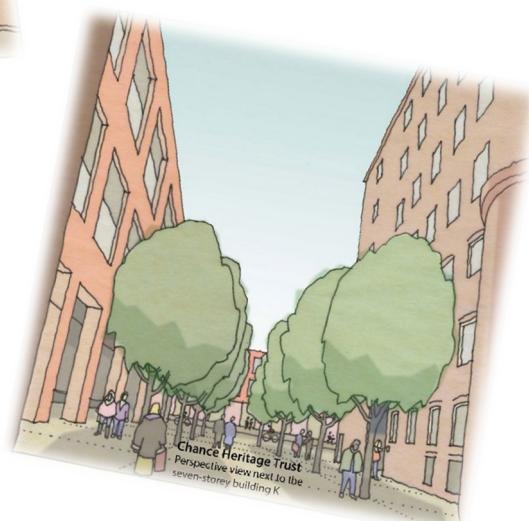


To make the restoration manageable we are breaking the development down into 3 phases. The first phase will bring the most iconic part of the site, the 7 Storey Building back into use. Even this first phase offers the potential for transformational change in the area.



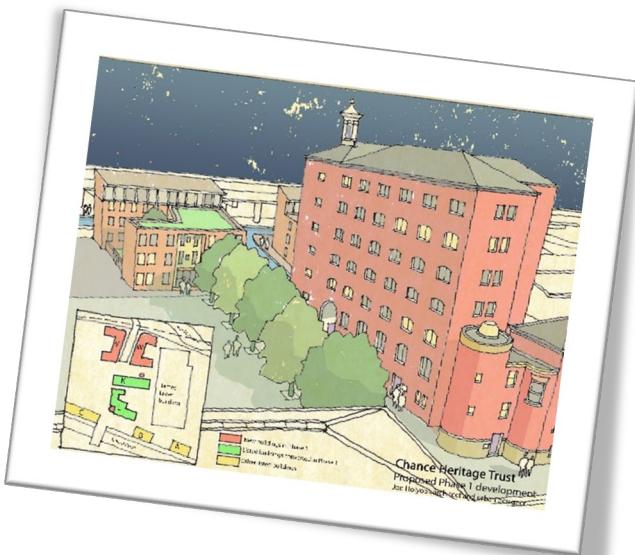
Over 95,000 vehicles a day pass the 7 Storey building on the M5 every day. Regenerating the most noticeable building adjacent to the motorway would be a high profile means of Sandwell Council advertising they are 'open for business'.

It would be one of the most significant, high profile landmarks in the West Midlands



Phase 1 includes:

- Restoration of the 7 Storey Building, preserving the Scheduled Monument and restoring the Grade 2 Listed building
- Remediating 1.6 acres of brownfield site
- Repurposing over 4,000 m² of floor space
- Creating 42 residential units
- Providing a community facility for cultural and canal based sports activities maximizing the canals as a facility



Time Scale:

CHT have an option to purchase the 7 Storey Building, the adjacent workshop and yard and can exercise the option as soon as it has secured funding. An application is underway to the £5m Enterprise Programme through the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF). If successful the NLHF development phase would start April 2022 and delivery commence could commence within 12 months. However the trust are seeking other potential grant funders. 17 potential commercial development partners have already expressed an interest



Thanks to Power to Change through the Homes in Community Hands programme, work is already underway. BPN Architects of Birmingham have been appointed to develop a feasible design.

Other projects

In August 2019 the trust changed from a registered charity to a charitable Community Benefit Society (CBS). It's charitable objects and all of the restrictions on profits assets remain the same, however, the Trustees wanted to make sure the Trust was owned and run by the community. As CBS members become owners of the project and determine its future strategy. At the same time The Trust changed its name from Chance Glass Works Heritage Trust to Chance Heritage Trust. The purpose of the name change was intended to reduce branding confusion when the trust pursued its wider remit of being a vehicle for regenerating other heritage assets in Sandwell.

Through the advocacy of Sandwell Council Officers, in 2019 CHT were approached by Avery Weigh-Tronix (ATW) one of the largest scale manufacturers in the world, to discuss the Soho Foundry and Mint which is within the curtilage of their 22 acre site in Forge Lane Smethwick.

ATW is owned by ITW a US-based parent company. IWT had conducted a strategic review and have decided to consolidate operations on the site and to transfer the foundry and mint to a community organisation. Following several discussions, they have agreed in principle to transfer ownership of the Soho Foundry and Mint site to CHT for £1, subject to a number of conditions.

The prospect of developing both the Chance Glassworks and The Soho Foundry and Mint within the context of the Galton Valley Conservation are offers a huge and exciting opportunity to advance not just the cultural, heritage and tourism offer in Sandwell. Both Chance Brothers and Boulton & Watt were world leaders in technology innovative and entrepreneurship the potential for these two sites to become centres for combining education, enterprise incubation and creative technology businesses is hugely significant.

The History of Soho Foundry & Mint

Established in 1796 by Matthew Boulton, James Watt and their sons beside the Birmingham Canal, Soho Foundry was the world's first purpose-built steam engine manufactory, pioneering new techniques and work processes. Their associate William Murdoch made this the first factory in the world to be lit by gas.

The internationally famous partnership of Boulton and Watt supplied the steam engines that powered the Industrial Revolution: they invented the modern world in their Soho works.



In 1848 a new partnership took over, constructing a new mint building in 1860 and producing steam engines until 1895. Engines from Soho powered the globe, including Brunel's Great Eastern steamship. In 1895 W&T Avery took over, and the site is now operated by Avery Weigh-Tronix, representing 225 years of continuous use and working life on the site.

The Foundry is Grade 2* Listed and a Scheduled Ancient Monument. It has been on the Heritage at Risk Register since 1998. The site covers around 6 acres within the larger AWT site and the buildings have been unused for over 50 years. Since 2008 the Foundry building has been protected by a temporary roof, and no access has been possible since then for safety reasons.

The condition of this unique site is of international concern. It has recently been cited in a book by a Croatian professor being published by the International Council of Museums.

The Project

CHT has secured over £64,000 of grant funding to advance the transfer of ownership to the Trust and to carry out surveys and high-level feasibility studies.

The principle of the sale has been established. However, a conditional sale agreement is a priority in order to secure further funding to advance the regeneration of the site.

ATW consider the support of Sandwell Council to be a significant success factor in moving the project forward.

AWT has agreed in principle to transfer ownership of the Soho Foundry and Mint site to CHT for £1, subject to a number of conditions. These include:

- Confidentiality
- The support of the local authority
- A H&S survey of the Foundry building
- Separate access
- Secure boundary

Historic England has awarded CHT a grant to carry out the legal work, secure site access and develop a fundraising strategy. The Architectural Heritage Trust has awarded CHT a prestigious project viability grant to undertake research and feasibility studies of the archaeology and historic architecture.



Our vision for Soho Foundry and Mint



The Soho Foundry and Mint is a site of international importance in the history of engineering, manufacturing industry and working conditions. It represents three of the most significant figures of the Industrial Revolution: the entrepreneur Matthew Boulton, the engineer James Watt, and the inventor William Murdoch. No other country in the world has a site which so clearly exemplifies this turning point in the world's history.

This is the ideal site for a culture- and heritage-led regeneration project of the sort that has successfully transformed the image, townscapes and economies of post-industrial cities such as Manchester, Glasgow, Leeds and Hull. CHT proposes a mixed-use redevelopment that will respect the history of the site while ensuring its relevance and sustainability for the next two centuries. In 1796 the Soho Foundry was at the cutting edge of the latest steam technology. We envisage it as a home for the cutting edge digital and green technologies of the 21st century, a hub for STEAM learning, including work experience and apprenticeships, and a centre for culture and heritage that engages the diverse communities of Sandwell and national and international visitors.

The project will enable:

1. 6.5 acres of brownfield site brought back into use: includes Soho Foundry floor space 4,800 m², Soho Foundry Mint floor space 1,534m²
2. Re-use of an internationally known Grade II* Listed Building/Scheduled Monument 'At Risk'
3. Formal and informal learning: schools, families, apprenticeships, volunteering opportunities and academic research
4. Community-led cultural, heritage and environment projects, interpreting the site in terms of its impact on working lives, the natural environment and global industry, contributing to social cohesion and place-making
5. Environmental and economic sustainability
6. Commercial opportunities: retail, catering, venue hire, outdoor, start-up and work/sell spaces



7. Potential partnerships with local schools, FE colleges, FE colleges, national and international cultural and heritage organisations
8. International visitors of between 400,000 and 1m a year, attracted by the significance of Soho and the innovative approach to its rebirth, contributing £7.5-30 million to the local economy



Appendix B

Context from Bid

How does the project demonstrate innovation in service delivery?

This is an exciting opportunity to show how a community-owned business can lead in large scale regeneration projects in their area, while at the same rescuing and saving two of the most important industrial heritage sites in the UK if not the world. While others make claim to it, Boulton and Watt's Soho complex really was the birthplace of the industrial revolution and the modern world. Both sites have international links and a global reputation, extending the influence of the project beyond the West Midlands.

These will be exemplar regeneration projects in which community engagement and involvement are at the very heart. The Business Plan will offer the opportunity to maximise public intervention and the leveraging of £m's of private investment, grants and donations.

Chance Heritage Trust (CHT), founded in 2015, was born out of the passion of a group of volunteers, with the vision, energy and commitment to change people's lives for the better; by stimulating the regeneration of the local area, bringing back into use heritage buildings for the social and economic benefit of the community, beginning with the Chance Brothers Glassworks.

The Trust's conversion from a registered charity to a charitable community benefit society, was completed in August 2019, driven by the Trust's strong desire to contribute to the resilience of the local community by offering opportunities for connection and engagement, and to encourage wider participation and inclusion. With a large membership base and run on a basis of one member one vote, there is complete equality for every member.

The benefits of regeneration through heritage assets are well documented, but usually achieved through a preservation trust or similar organisation, whose primary role is the preservation of heritage. CHT's approach is innovative in putting the needs of the community first, through an ownership structure that is open to all, encouraging delivery by the community for the community.

The Trust's goal for the Glassworks site for example, is that it should be self-financing (on social enterprise principles) within 4 years.

Which groups will your UK Community Renewal Fund project target?

In the short term, communities will benefit from the cultural and heritage programme. Participation will promote social inclusion and cohesion, helping to build place-making and local identity. The family programme will introduce children to the links between STEM subjects, industry and the world of work in a relaxed environment outside school. As part of the programme we will seek to build lasting partnerships with schools and other local organisations that will continue to offer opportunities for participation beyond the life of the project. The community consultation will inform our plans for the two sites.

In the longer term Chance Heritage Trust plans to enhance its resilience by creating a 5-year Business Plan for its two signature projects, the Soho Foundry and Mint and Chance Brothers Glassworks. These sites played a major role in Britain's industrial history from the 18th to the 20th centuries. We will redevelop them as mixed-use commercial and cultural hubs. They will provide spaces for new businesses in digital and green technologies that are as cutting-edge as Messrs Boulton & Watt and Chance were in their days, kick-starting regeneration and contributing to the local economy. Contemporary interpretation of these major monuments to Britain's industrial prowess will help to start the process of regeneration in a way that reflects a proud local and national heritage and will attract footfall to Sandwell.

Describe how you have considered the equalities impacts of your proposal, the relevant affected groups based on protected characteristics, and any measures you propose in response to these impacts.

CHT is fully committed to the promotion of equality of opportunity, valuing and embracing diversity and ensuring a holistic and inclusive approach to the project. We are committed to providing our activities on a fair and equitable basis, regardless of age, disability, race, religion, marital status, gender, gender reassignment or sexual orientation. The Borough's population of c 324, 000 is young and very diverse; almost 40% of residents identify as being of an ethnic minority. The largest ethnic community is the Indian community (15.4%). 40% of residents are under 30 years old and only 15% of residents are over the age of 65. CHT's directors (nearly half of whom are local residents themselves), seek to reflect a community that has strength in diversity, with people who have come from different corners of the world to settle and who contribute to enriching local life with their culture, heritage and entrepreneurial skills. We are members of the 'Don't Settle Consortium' working with young people of colour aged 16 – 30 and have developed a Youth Advisory Board that sits alongside the CHT Board and is devising an effective approach to engaging young people in all of our projects.

The Cultural Programme will engage with local people to raise the profile of the two sites and consult on our plans for the future of Sandwell's industrial heritage.

The programme will be managed through a self-employed Project Manager with the community engagement and consultation experience and a small team of appropriately qualified self-employed specialists to deliver community engagement activities.

We will offer a programme of informal learning and cultural engagement for families with young children, a range of events and activities will include visits to museums, heritage sites, discovery sessions and hands-on activities.

Localised events at appropriate venues will be organised and will engage with community groups and individuals to collect their stories about growing up, living and working in Sandwell and their countries of origin, celebrating the diversity of the area.

We will support participants in using creative arts to explore different ways of expressing their stories and offer training in techniques for investigating and recording heritage. We will celebrate these two strands in an event in March 2022, in advance of the Commonwealth Games

Commitment to Net Zero

The project will support the Government's Net Zero ambitions by adopting and promoting as many of the guiding principles as is reasonably practicable of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26). Through the project we will aim to:-

1. Actively manage potential impacts on the environment and local community and identify opportunities to deliver environmental and social value
2. Provide an accessible and inclusive setting for all
3. Encourage healthy living
4. Ensure a safe and secure atmosphere
5. Encourage more sustainable behaviour
6. Promote the use of responsible sources and responsible use of resources throughout our supply chain

7. Leave a positive legacy

Members of the delivery team, PET, Board and other volunteers will be encouraged to make a personal commitment to more sustainable behaviour, which we will promote through social media.

We will incorporate opportunities for people to express themselves on climate change, as part of our programme of informal learning linked to Sandwell's industrial past and looking forward to a greener future. For example, the Glassworks and Foundry are bordered by the Birmingham Canal. With the cooperation of the Canal and River Trust, this body of water has the potential to be exploited for future heating and cooling of buildings. There is a historical precedent for this in the manufacturing processes on the Chance site, which used canal water for energy transfer.

In the longer term, research and feasibility studies for this project will help to inform the regeneration of the wider UK industrial heritage, contributing to the Government's levelling-up ambitions. For example, there is an opportunity to establish two exemplar carbon reduction projects to maximise the use of the local canals and the proposed Gifford Recycling incinerator plant, a large waste incineration facility by the canal that could provide district heating for both sites.

There are opportunities to increase the use of canals and towpaths, both of which form part of the national cycle route. Increasing access to and use of the canals as a means of transport by water, cycle and foot will support carbon reduction.