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Heritage Lottery Fund supports One-Site Project

The People's History Museum in Manchester learned today that the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has agreed to support its proposed One-Site Project.

The news was announced by the Rt. Hon. Tessa Jowell MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport at a major heritage summit in London entitled *Capturing the Public Value of Heritage*. Speaking at the summit, she commented:

"I am very pleased that the People's History Museum has been successful in securing Heritage Lottery Fund support. It's important that Lottery money directly benefits the people who actually buy tickets, so a museum which celebrates real people's lives and tells their stories from the last two centuries is very deserving of an HLF grant."

Anne Robinson, broadcaster and journalist, who opened the *Celebrity* exhibition a few years ago, said:

"I'm delighted to hear that the People's History Museum in Manchester has received news of support from the Heritage Lottery Fund. I visited the museum in 2003 to open an exhibition and was struck by how relevant the displays are to modern life and how much we tend to take things like the vote for granted. Their plans to bring all activities together can only be a positive move and will benefit all those interested in the story of ordinary people."

The HLF's earmarked* grant of £7.18 million will enable the museum to consolidate its current two sites into one providing much improved visitor facilities and increased access to the museum's collections, Archive and Textile Conservation Studio. The proposed plan is to build an extension adjacent to the current museum galleries which are housed in

the Pump House on Bridge Street. It is anticipated that the museum will close at the end of 2007 to allow for the re-development with the new museum opening in the summer of 2009.

Nick Mansfield, Director of the People's History Museum said "we are delighted that our HLF application has been successful. This is an exciting time for the museum and we are looking forward to finalising our plans so that we can tell the story of ordinary people in an inspiring and engaging way to appeal to as many people as possible."

ENDS.

Notes to editors:

*A 'Stage One Pass' means that money has been earmarked by the Heritage Lottery Fund for the project in question. Competition at this stage is tough, and while a Stage One Pass does not guarantee funding, it is an indication of positive support, and money for the scheme is set aside. The applicant can then progress to Stage Two and submit a further, fully developed application to secure the full grant. It is expected that this will be submitted in November 2006.

The new changing exhibition *Carrying the Colours – banners from our collection* will open to the public on Saturday 28 January and will be on display until Sunday 29 October 2006.

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For further information about the Heritage Lottery Fund, please contact Katie Owen, HLF Press Office on 020 7591 6036 or www.hlf.org.uk

The museum tells the extraordinary story of ordinary people and how they changed the world. The displays range from life in the Victorian cotton mills to the growth of football as a leisure activity. They include reconstructed scenes as well as objects and combine text, hands-on-exhibits and sound to vividly recreate the day-to-day lives of ordinary people at home, at work and during leisure time over the last 200 years.

The People's History Museum, located on Bridge Street, is open Tuesday to Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays from 11.00am to 4.30pm. Entrance to the museum is now free for everyone.

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