

**D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – Overview and Scrutiny Review  
Recommendations Progress**

In July 2024, Cabinet approved the recommendations of an Overview and Scrutiny Review in relation to equality, diversity and inclusion at the Council. Some of these recommendations related to the D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum and the table below provides an update on the progress of these recommendations.

<b>Overview and Scrutiny Recommendation – Action</b>	<b>Progress</b>
1. To consider changing the counter space at the D.H. Lawrence Museum to be more accessible to customers and incorporate an area for a wheelchair user to access the digital tour.	<p>A pop-up laptop table has been installed in the downstairs area of the Museum to provide a more comfortable space for those accessing digital tours, including wheelchair users.</p> <p>Work is ongoing in conjunction with the Asset Management and Development Team to identify external funding for works to support the ongoing maintenance and improvement of the museum building, which includes the counter space.</p> <p>An application to the Arts Council's Museum Estate and Development (MEND) Fund was submitted in June 2025 but was unfortunately unsuccessful. Further bids are being developed as part of the Government's new Creative Foundations Fund and Heritage Lottery Funding.</p>
2. To consider the provision of ear defenders, to offer visitors who may have sensory processing differences and additional audio headsets to enhance the D.H. Lawrence experience to all.	<p>A pair of ear defenders are now available for use. These are visible on reception, with the hearing-loop, with a sign prompting visitors to ask if they would like to use them.</p> <p>An audio tour of the Museum is currently being developed, which can be downloaded via QR code on arrival at the site, enabling visitors to use their own devices, which may be adapted to their needs as required.</p>

<b>Overview and Scrutiny Recommendation – Action</b>	<b>Progress</b>
3. To increase signage within the museum to increase awareness of health and safety issues and accessibility and to provide signposting to the nearest accessible toilet.	<p>Various health and safety notices are on display for visitors to advise of any hazards. As part of the introduction on their arrival, a brief health and safety overview is also provided, highlighting any particular areas to be aware of.</p> <p>A new banister has been installed to aid the use of the stairs.</p> <p>Signage has also been installed to direct visitors to the nearest accessible toilet to the Museum building.</p>
4. To increase advertising of the D.H. Lawrence digital experience to promote live tours to Groups.	<p>Digital tours have been promoted through social media, on the Museum webpages and through direct engagement to schools. In 2024/25 the Museum engaged with 149 people via digital tours. The Museum is currently developing its first digital exhibitions which are due to launch in October 2025. £98,000 UKSPF funding has supported the development of new augmented reality and audio trails which launched in September 2025 and provide new digital ways to explore Lawrence and his life in and around Eastwood. This will be promoted through displays and signage in the town and more directly through local businesses and schools.</p>