

**ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MONDAY 20th JANUARY 2020**

The following question was received from Dr. Terri Eynon CC

"I am delighted to hear that Leicestershire Record Office is to become permanent home of the national Thomas Cook archive.

I understand that the Thomas Cook archive will be the largest archive in the Record Office and is as yet uncatalogued. Given its national profile and the responses to this news in the media, we can anticipate considerable interest in these records from universities, travel historians as well as the general public. If this authority is to unlock the potential of the collection and its commercial assets, investment will need to be made.

Paragraph 46 notes a Communities and Well-being Saving (AC8) for 20/21 of £310k, rising to £450k in 22/23.

Last year's figures have been amended (previously £200k in 19/20 rising to £1,000,000 in 22/23) and paragraph 48 refers to the 'development of a Collections Hub'. Given the time-frame for budget discussions, these financial decisions will have been made prior to this news about Thomas Cook.

What impact will the accession of the Thomas Cook archive have on the Records Office and how does the budget need to be amended to ensure that Leicestershire County Council makes the most of this new asset?

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<http://www.recordoffice.org.uk/news/thomas-cook-comes-home/>

Response:

Whilst the Thomas Cook archive is large, its accession and hosting would not be different to any other large deposits that ROLLR (Record Office for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland) might receive and will be dealt with as part of its Business as Usual processes.

In recognition of its size, the service has submitted a grant application to the National Archive which, if successful, will provide additional capacity to undertake the work required over a shorter period. This will fund archivist time to complete the cataloguing work over a 12-month period and support work to help make the archive digitally accessible.

The County Council also intends to work with its ROLLR partners (Leicester City Council and Rutland Council) together with the University archives to help with providing access to this important resource.