Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee – 15 December 2016 Petition – Keeping Arts and Community Services at the Shire Hall Gallery Local Member response:

Written statement from Councillor Maureen Compton: I have spent many hours arguing to keep the Shire Hall where it is and the library before that. The Shire Hall Gallery is a jewel in the crown of Stafford and it is in the right place to exhibit art and craft works. I argued strongly for the library to be kept in the Shire Hall but lost the battle. We have to keep the Shire Hall open as a beacon for the arts. The people of Stafford will not forgive any councillor who votes to close that building. We need to enhance the arts in Stafford not destroy it.