

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

01 September 2015

Report of the Strategic Director, Health and Communities

DERBYSHIRE LITERATURE FESTIVAL 2015

1. Purpose of the report:

To inform the Cabinet Member, Health and Communities of the success of the Derbyshire Literature Festival 2015.

2. Information and analysis:

2.1 The Derbyshire Literature Festival ran from 8 to 17 May 2015. The main aim of the Festival was to showcase Derbyshire talent as part of the *Made in Derbyshire* programme, 38 events and exhibitions were branded *Made in Derbyshire*, with 60% of the programme featuring Derbyshire artists and writers.

2.2 Key successes of the Literature Festival were:

- 57 events took place across the whole county (plus 12 exhibitions)
- 39 different venues were used including libraries, Derbyshire Record Office, Buxton Museum & Art Gallery, School Library Service, heritage venues, care homes and community centres
- 183 children and 969 adults participated in Festival activities, plus many more visitors to the exhibitions
- Libraries were the central part of the Festival programme with 26 libraries hosting events and exhibitions
- Several new partnerships were developed to extend the Festival programme including events held at Elvaston Castle Country Park, Bakewell Old House Museum, Renishaw Hall, along the Cromford Canal and in Adult Care settings
- Satisfaction levels were high with more than 95% of people who completed evaluation forms stating that they enjoyed the event they attended

2.3 A strong element of the programme was the emphasis on inclusion and wellbeing. Specific events were held for people experiencing dementia and some events were held in community care venues to encourage participation. Home Library Service users were enabled to attend events in libraries with support from library staff and the provision of community

transport. An event was held to link in directly with Mental Health Awareness Week. Young people were also given the opportunity to take part in and lead events.

- 2.4 To build on the success of the festival the service is reviewing the ways in which it celebrates and promotes books and reading in Derbyshire, seeking to further involve local communities in events and activities to ensure the events meet the following aims:

- To widen access to books and reading in Derbyshire
- To promote the services of the Libraries and Heritage Division
- To encourage the use of libraries as community hubs
- To celebrate Derbyshire writers and artists

3. Other considerations:

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: financial, legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

4. Background papers:

None

5. Key Decision:

No

6. Call-in:

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report? No

7. Officer's recommendation:

That the Cabinet Member, Health and Communities notes the report on the Derbyshire Literature Festival 2015.

**David Lowe
Strategic Director
Health and Communities**