

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES**

**14 April 2015**

**Report of the Strategic Director, Health and Communities**

**AWARD OF ARTS COUNCIL AND BINGHAM TRUST FUNDING**

**1. Purpose of the report:**

To inform the Cabinet Member, Health and Communities of two awards of funding for Buxton Museum and Art Gallery (BMAG), from the Arts Council England (ACE) Resilience Fund and the Bingham Trust, and to seek permission to spend the funds as outlined in the body of the report.

**2. Information and analysis:**

- 2.1 ACE has recently announced the award of a series of grants to build resilience in the museum sector. This is supported by research which identifies the impact that museums have to both local and national economies, as generators of income, business and employment. The Resilience Fund aims to support a step change for the museum sector by enabling museums to become more sustainable and resilient.
- 2.2 BMAG submitted an application with the Derbyshire Record Office, to explore improvement to the shop and e-retail offers and to use their collections to inspire commercial benefit. The project aims to review the small scale retail operations of both partners and another three museums in Derbyshire and from this to develop the retail offer further. The learning from the review of the museums and Record Office offer will also be shared with colleagues in the Derbyshire Museums and Heritage Forum.
- 2.3 ACE has agreed to support the first year of a potential three year programme at £27,980, with an invitation to submit a further application to the fund later in the year. This first element is expected to end by March 2016.
- 2.4 The proposal included the appointment of one member of staff at Grade 9 at 15 hours a week for up to 30 weeks to support the programme, alongside a project mentor and commercial specialists to undertake the review. Artists will also be commissioned to develop potential new product lines for retail.

- 2.5 In a separate application, BMAG applied to the Bingham Trust, a local Buxton trust, for a grant to support one of the digital programmes to be developed as part of the Heritage Lottery funded Collections in the Landscape. The Trust has awarded BMAG £3,000.
- 2.6 Both projects will require the input of museum specialists to support the delivery of the key elements. The commissioning of these specialists will be undertaken with support from the Council's Procurement team and contracts will be advertised through Source Derbyshire and Arts Derbyshire.

### **3. Financial considerations:**

- 3.1 The ACE grant is for £27,980 and will cover expenditure until 31 March 2016. There is support in kind from the contribution made by colleagues, other museums and members of focus groups, and the Council's existing commitment towards the purchase of stock for retail provides the agreed financial income.
- 3.2 The Bingham Fund has awarded a grant of £3,000 for a project delivered in 2015.

### **4. Human Resources considerations:**

- 4.1 The ACE funding will support a post of Museum Development Officer for 15 hours a week for up to a maximum of 30 weeks. This post has been evaluated through the Hay job evaluation process at Grade 9 (£23,616 - £25,337 + oncosts). The post will report to the Derbyshire Museums Manager.

The recruitment will be undertaken in accordance with existing County Council policies.

### **5. Other considerations:**

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

### **6. Background papers:**

None

**7. Key Decision:**

No

**8. Call-in:**

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report?

No

**9. Officer's Recommendations:**

That the Cabinet Member, Health and Communities:

1. Notes the award of funding of £27,980 from the Arts Council England and of £3,000 from the Bingham Trust.
2. Agrees permission to spend the funds as outlined in the body of the report.

**David Lowe  
Strategic Director  
Health and Communities**