

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

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

**14 April 2015**

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

**FIRST ART**

**1 Purpose of the report:**

To seek approval from the Cabinet Member, Health and Communities for the allocation of a grant of £10,000 to First Art, a three-year programme of arts activity to develop new audiences in Bolsover and North East Derbyshire.

**2 Information and analysis:**

- 2.1 First Art is an Arts Council England funded Creative People and Places programme which was awarded £1.5 million in 2014 to be spent over a three year period in Ashfield, Bolsover, Mansfield and North East Derbyshire. Partners in the consortium, led by Creswell Heritage Trust, are Junction Arts, City Arts, The Prince's Trust and community representatives. Over the next three years First Art plans to bring great art, big events and exciting new opportunities to Ashfield, Bolsover, Mansfield, and North East Derbyshire.
- 2.2 First Art draws its name and inspiration from Britain's only Ice Age rock art, cut into the surfaces of the caves at Creswell Crags 14,000 years ago. Through this new programme, communities from across these areas will connect with great art and cultural experiences in the company of nationally and internationally renowned artists. Together they will explore the region's distinctive landscape, as well as the stories that have shaped the area and lives of people living there, to develop their own new and unique arts experiences. The aim of the whole project is to reach out to people who have not engaged with artistic experiences before.
- 2.3 First Art has applied to Nottinghamshire County Council for funding to support the project and been awarded £10,000 over the three years. It is also in the process of applying to the four district councils for funding. First Art has also applied to Derbyshire County Council for £10,000 match funding to support the arts activities in Bolsover and North East Derbyshire. All funders will be credited on the website and publicity materials.

**3 Financial considerations:**

The grant will be taken from the existing departmental budget.

**4 Equality of Opportunity considerations:**

All community arts based activity supports inclusion, works with the most disadvantaged groups and seeks to ensure that all local people have opportunities to participate, regardless of age, background or rural isolation.

**5 Other considerations:**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, environmental, health, human resources, 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 Recommendation:**

That the Cabinet Member, Health and Communities agrees to the allocation of a grant of £10,000 to First Art.

**David Lowe  
Strategic Director  
Health and Communities**