

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

15 March 2016

Report of the Strategic Director, Health and Communities

WRITING AMBITIONS - DERBYSHIRE RESIDENCIES

1. Purpose of the report:

To request permission from the Cabinet Member, Health and Communities to spend Arts Council Grants for the Arts funding of £14,500 on a writing residencies project and to transfer any unspent grant money into a dedicated reserve at the end of each financial year, for the duration of the project.

2. Information and analysis:

Over ten years Derbyshire's Writing Ambitions programme has worked with many local writers and delivered a number of creative writing workshops and opportunities, engaging with audiences across the county and supporting the development of new and existing Derbyshire writers. The Arts Service wishes to build on the success of this programme to reach new audiences and work with more writers.

To support the development of this area of work the Arts Service submitted an application to the Arts Council Grants for the Arts scheme to fund a writing residencies project and this bid was successful. The Derbyshire writing residencies project will be for writers at an early stage of their career who are keen to develop their skills in delivering projects and workshops in community settings.

The project will run over two years and will include a networking day; a series of practical skills workshops; funding to deliver four residencies with mentoring support from experienced writers; and a final event to highlight good practice in this area of work.

In addition, the Arts Service will continue to work with previous poets laureate to develop poetry workshops, events and commissions; and to offer business development support for writers through professional development workshops, newsletters and the artsderbyshire website.

3. Financial considerations:

£14,500 has been awarded towards the costs of the project by the Arts Council through the Grants for the Arts scheme. This will cover writers' fees, mentoring, the workshops and the networking day. A condition of this grant is that match funding of £5,000 is provided by Derbyshire County Council, which will come from the approved Literature Development budget. Permission is sought to transfer any unspent grant money into an earmarked reserve at the end of each financial year, for the duration of the project.

4. Other considerations:

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

5. Background papers:

None

6. Key Decision:

No

7. Call-in:

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

8. Officer's recommendation:

That the Cabinet Member, Health and Communities:

1. Approves the expenditure of the Arts Council grant
2. Approves the transfer of any unspent grant money into a dedicated reserve at the end of each financial year for the duration of the project.

David Lowe
Strategic Director
Health and Communities