

Agenda Item No. 4(b)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

20 September 2016

Report of the Strategic Director - Economy, Transport and Communities

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND SUPPORT FOR BUXTON MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

(1) **Purpose of Report** To inform the Cabinet Member of the award of £94,500 from Arts Council England (ACE) for Buxton Museum and Art Gallery (BMAG) and to ask permission to accept the grant, and to request that this project be added to the current Museum project already included in the Capital Programme.

(2) **Information and Analysis** During 2015 – 2016, BMAG applied successfully to ACE to deliver a programme called Inspired Collections Retailing. This had two strands: to develop retail resilience in a cohort of six museums in Derbyshire, including Derbyshire Record Office and BMAG, and to review the retail offer at BMAG, particularly in light of the planned redevelopments. Following the success of this Round 1 programme, the museum applied to ACE for further funding.

In July 2016, ACE announced that BMAG has been awarded £94,500 to improve the entrance foyer of the museum to create a welcoming and accessible public space with an improved retail offer. The museum will also explore developing an e-retail shop with other museums in Derbyshire, making the most of local collections and commissioning new products by local artists. The project will last for two years.

The improvements to the museum's entrance space will be undertaken at the same time as the redevelopment during the winter of 2016-17. This will include relocating the reception desk, improving the retail area, providing a new display about Buxton and an area of seating where Netloan public access computers will be available.

The funding will also be used to explore the business case for e-retailing and working with artists in a commercial relationship with museums. Print on demand being more easily available provides an opportunity to make Museum collections more widely available on commercial products. The project will develop a business case, working with a cohort of Derbyshire Museums to

explore the opportunities and risks of undertaking this effectively. Should the business case suggest the idea is commercially achievable, the concept could have wider appeal, with commercial benefit to both museums and local businesses.

(3) **Financial Considerations** ACE has awarded £94,500 towards a total project cost of £145,650. The remaining balance will be found from within the existing museum budget and earmarked reserves.

(4) **Social Value Considerations** BMAG is a valued, free, community resource which will be completely transformed in the next six months. This civic space will provide a comfortable, friendly place for people to meet and to find out more about the town and area.

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

(5) **Key Decision** No.

(6) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(7) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Communities Department. Officer contact details – Don Gibbs, extension 36572.

(8) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That the Cabinet Member:

8.1 Asks permission to accept the grant of £94,500 from Arts Council England.

8.2 Requests that the project is added to the current Museum project identified within the Capital Programme.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Communities