

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES** held on 6 May 2014 at County Hall, Matlock

PRESENT

Councillor D Allen – Cabinet Member

Also in Attendance – Councillors C A Hart, P J Smith and E S Wilcox

45/14 **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities held on 15 April 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

46/14 **CREATIVE DERBYSHIRE** Creative Derbyshire had been a bespoke programme of support for local creative businesses and artists which ran between September 2010 and December 2013. Major funding for the programme had been from Arts Council England, Derbyshire County Council and all the District/Borough Councils. Creative Derbyshire had been very successful, and had considerably over-performed against its initial delivery plan. The key successes of the programme were highlighted, along with the key outputs, as set out in the original delivery plan.

The whole business support programme had been developed on the basis of consultation with businesses about their needs. The programme had used well established and local practitioner businesses to deliver the workshop events, and this had worked well. Feedback from all the business development events had been excellent. Creative Derbyshire had offered excellent value for money in terms of partner investment. The cost per business supported had been £165.

Demand for Creative Derbyshire events continued to be high, and there was still a need for the programme to undertake a number of tasks. The County Council's Arts Service and S4W Ltd, on behalf of Arts Derbyshire, were working on finding funding for the continuation of the programme, and were liaising with D2N2 and the Sheffield City Region LEP.

RESOLVED to note the report.

47/14 **"MADE IN DERBYSHIRE" 2015 PROGRAMME TO PROMOTE THE DERBYSHIRE ECONOMY** The County Council, in partnership with the Culture Derbyshire Partnership Board, was proposing that 2015 be the year to celebrate "Made in Derbyshire". A programme of activity was being developed which built on existing events and activities within local communities and promoted some of Derbyshire's larger festivals to wider audiences. The aims of the programme were to stimulate local economy, increase community cohesion across Derbyshire by bringing communities

together and raising their participation in a wide range of diverse events. The programme sought to increase spend in the local economy by attracting additional visitors to the county throughout 2015. The objectives for the programme were detailed.

The key elements of the “Made in Derbyshire” programme were proposed to include the Food and Drink Festival, the Literature Festival, the Grand Tour, L’Eroica, DerwentWISE and World Heritage Sites, and Heritage Skills. In addition, a much wider programme of activity was proposed, and this would capture existing, community-based events such as well dressings, major visual/performing arts, visitor attractions and existing festivals.

The programme met a number of the Council’s stated priorities and objectives in relation to supporting the visitor economy, improving community wellbeing, raising aspirations and protecting heritage assets. Existing networks and capacity would be used as far as possible to support delivery of the programme, although resources would be needed to ensure effective strategic co-ordination and marketing of the programme outside the county and to cover the costs of additional events and activities within the county.

There were two existing reserves available to support the activities planned totalling £136,286. Approval was sought to draw down from the reserves to fund some aspects of the range of events and activities, including extended marketing, community development work and short-term contracts for artists to help deliver parts of the programme. The reserve would also be used to fund additional hours for existing staff. The Culture Derbyshire Executive Officer Group would oversee the planning and development of the programme.

RESOLVED to approve (1) the “Made in Derbyshire” 2015 programme to promote the Derbyshire economy through culture, heritage and sporting events, products and festivals as set out in the report; and

(2) the expenditure from the allocated reserves for the programme, as set out in the report.

48/14 TEMPORARY RENTAL OF STORAGE SPACE AT DERBYSHIRE RECORD OFFICE Derbyshire Record Office (DRO) had been approached by Nottinghamshire Archives to provide temporary storage for part of its collections whilst building works took place to extend its premises. The space would be required for approximately one year, beginning in late May/early June 2014.

The DRO’s new repository block was made up of four strong rooms, each offering 1km of shelf space. In the medium term, there was one free strong room, which could be allocated to Nottinghamshire Archives without

any disruption to DRO. It was proposed to charge Nottinghamshire Archives £0.25 per shelf per week, which equated to £13.00 per shelf per year. For one strong room, this would bring in a one off income of approximately £13,000.

RESOLVED to approve the temporary rental of storage space at the DRO to Nottinghamshire County Council as outlined.

49/14 EXPENDITURE OF GRANT FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE SUMMER READING CHALLENGE The Library Service had been awarded a grant of £10,000 from the Arts Council to support a wide range of activities for children and families to tie in with the 2014 Summer Reading Challenge. This would support a range of activities under the banner 'Derbyshire Myths and Legends', and these would be led by three local artists and would run between 26 July – 6 September 2014.

The work would also be supported by young volunteers aged 13-24 as part of the Summer Reading Challenge Volunteering Scheme. Additional funding of £1,000 had been made available to Derbyshire by the Reading Agency, supported by the Social Action Fund, to increase volunteer numbers in 2014. The project would help sustain and increase participation in the Summer Reading Challenge.

As well as providing opportunities for locally based artists, the funding would help to provide opportunities for young people to gain experience of work through volunteering.

RESOLVED to approve expenditure of £11,000 of grant funding to support the Summer Reading Challenge for children and families.

50/14 ACTION TAKEN AGAINST 'MOST COMPLAINED ABOUT' TRADERS USING THE ENTERPRISE ACT Consumer detriment could be caused by breaches of civil law as well as actions that constituted criminal offences. As an alternative to enforcement action under criminal legislation, the Division could also apply the provisions of the Enterprise Act, which required businesses to not act in a way that was detrimental to the interests of the consumer. The Act enabled the Authority to seek an undertaking from a trader to prevent them from operating in an unfair way, and failure to comply could lead to court action. Before applying to the Court, staff would make contact with the business to discuss the volume of complaints and ways in which they could be resolved.

Since the enactment of the Enterprise Act, the Division had made increasing use of its powers to engage with those businesses generating the most complaints. Some 28 local traders, who between them had generated 655 complaints during the year, had been approached using Enterprise Act

powers, and as a consequence, the total number of complaints for the businesses had fallen by 24%. The types of issues identified that had contributed to the high complaint levels were varied, and some examples were given. An issue highlighted with the Act was that the injunctive route to seeking an improvement in trading practice could be cumbersome and ineffective with some, who were unwilling to cooperate.

It was difficult to quantify the value of trading standards work to improve standards, and the Office of Fair Trading had conducted research into the financial benefit to the economy of a reduction in complaints. Based on the reduction in complaints as a result of Derbyshire's intervention, the benefit to the local economy was some £2.6m. Full details of the activity undertaken under the Enterprise Act was provided. Officers would continue to target those businesses generating the most complaints.

RESOLVED to note the Trading Standards Division's use of the Enterprise Act to improve standards of trading of businesses operating in Derbyshire generating the most complaints.

51/14 FEES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2014/15 TRADING STANDARDS DIVISION Approval was sought for the fees recommended to be charged during the 2014/15 financial year for the testing and verification of weighing and measuring equipment under the Weights and Measures Act 1985 and for registrations under the provisions of the Poisons Act 1972.

The local authority had a statutory duty to enforce the provisions of weights and measures legislation within its area, and one of the purposes of the legislation was to ensure that weighing and measuring equipment was fit for use for trade and that errors of measurement were within prescribed tolerances.

Verification levels had fallen between 2007-2013, mainly due to more businesses using the private sector for verifications and because of the closure of a Chesterfield based water-meter manufacturer in 2009. However, the activity had experienced an increase towards the end of 2013 due to a local business placing weighing instruments mounted on road vehicles onto the market. The income from the business had been £11,000 although there was potential for the income to increase to up to £40,000 per year. .

The fees approved for weights and measures verification work included a surcharge for work done outside normal working hours. It was proposed that the additional overtime fee charged for verification work outside the normal working hours continued at the rate of standard charge plus 33% and for bank holidays to standard charge plus 50% to cover any additional overtime costs where authorised.

The proposed fees for registrations under the Poisons Act 1972 were presented, with no increase in charges over the fees charged in 2013-14.

The authority had followed guidance provided by the Local Government Association on setting fees, which should be on a cost recovery basis. As the fees had not been increased for three years, it was recommended that there be an increase in the fees charged for weights and measures verifications services in line with inflation at 1.7% for March 2014. The value of work from weights and measures verification and calibration activities in 2013-14 had been £19,907, and the total income for 2014-15 was forecast to be similar. It was also recommended that the fees for registration under the Poisons Act 1972 increase in line with current inflation.

RESOLVED to agree the fees recommended for the financial year 2014-15 as set out in Appendix A of the report.