

Agenda Item No. 3(b)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

25 April 2017

Report of the Strategic Director - Economy, Transport and Communities

**AWARD OF FUNDING TO BUXTON MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY  
FROM THE ART FUND**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To inform the Cabinet Member of the award of a grant of £40,000 from the Art Fund New Collecting Awards to Buxton Museum and Art Gallery (BMAG).

(2) **Information and Analysis** The Art Fund is a registered charity that supports museums to improve their collections through purchase of artefacts and through developing curatorial skills. One of its funding streams, the New Collecting Award, enables curators to build critical professional skills by pursuing new avenues of collecting for their museums. By offering curators 100% of the funding they require for focused collecting projects of the highest quality, the scheme enables them to expand museum collections of fine art, design or visual culture in exciting new areas, or deepen existing holdings in imaginative ways.

BMAG has a track record of working with the Art Fund purchasing watercolours and paintings for the museum's collections, including the acquisitions of landscapes by William Day. Building on the legacy of the Heritage Lottery Fund programme, Enlightenment! Derbyshire Setting the Pace in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century (2007 – 2013), the Assistant Collections Officer has continued to develop the collections relating to the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries history of Derbyshire, both as a tourist destination and centre of scientific exploration. This legacy was also recognised by the Paul Mellon Fund in its recent competitive funding round when BMAG secured a grant to develop Depicting Derbyshire to make the landscape collection available online.

BMAG submitted an application to the New Collecting Award, an extremely competitive funding round, to further develop the collections relating to Derbyshire in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, especially works on paper and on ceramic. These reflect the developments in the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, tourist hotspots including Dovedale and Castleton, and romantic destinations such as Wingfield Manor near Alfreton and Bolsover Castle. The Art Fund has awarded £40,000 towards this, which will wholly fund any

purchases. This is one of only six awards being offered. The grant will be spent researching and purchasing works and the acquisitions will enhance the existing collections in the museum.

(3) **Financial Considerations** The Art Fund has awarded BMAG £40,000 towards investment in the museums collection of paintings and artefacts relating to Derbyshire in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. There will be no need for match funding, although the grant can be used to support more expensive purchases.

(4) **Social Value Considerations** BMAG has an extensive collection of views of the landscape, reflecting what it looked like, how it has changes and who lived here. These images are used in permanent and temporary exhibitions, and have been used in innovative outdoor programmes such as Pictures in the Landscape, in Dovedale, in partnership with the National Trust in 2010 and 2011, and then again on the Cromford Canal in 2016. The collection includes works by significant artists and pictures have been lent to other museums for exhibition. The information they show provides important evidence about Derbyshire and how people lived their lives in this landscape.

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 Notes the report.

8.2 Agrees that Buxton Museum Art Gallery may accept the award of £40,000 from the Art Fund's New Collecting Awards.

**Mike Ashworth**  
**Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Communities**