

Agenda Item No. 4(e)

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE**

**19 September 2018**

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

**PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS FOR DERBYSHIRE'S BUILDINGS AT  
RISK SURVEY**

- (1) **Purpose of Report** To seek the Cabinet Member's approval for Derbyshire County Council to partner Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust (DHBT) to deliver a Buildings at Risk project.
- (2) **Information and Analysis** For over 30 years, the DHBT, with the support of Derbyshire County Council, has compiled a 'Buildings at Risk' (BAR) register for Derbyshire. Central Government recognises such lists as vital data bases for the identification of buildings that are at risk. The list relies on input and updates from all local planning authorities (LPAs) within the County, submitted to and compiled by Derbyshire County Council's Conservation, Heritage and Design Service. Given increasing budget pressures, there is now only limited capacity to undertake this work on a regular basis.

On 23 March 2017, the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Infrastructure approved the allocation of a £7,000 grant to the DHBT so that it could appoint a consultant to write a stage one Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) application for a county-wide BAR survey (Minute No. 42/17 refers). The intention is that the project will coordinate volunteers to survey all listed buildings in Derbyshire, the whole of the Peak District National Park Authority and Staffordshire Moorlands. This will build on a Historic England pilot undertaken in High Peak Borough Council and Staffordshire Moorlands where volunteers were trained to undertake visual condition surveys from publicly accessible vantage points.

If the Stage 1 bid is successful, Derbyshire County Council and DHBT will be invited by the HLF to develop the project proposed in detail for a Stage 2 submission.

On 13 March 2018, Urban Vision was appointed by DHBT and a stage one submission to the HLF is now being progressed for August 2018. It is anticipated that a decision will be made by the HLF in December 2018.

At a recent progress meeting, the HLF questioned whether sufficient capacity was available within DHBT to undertake the BAR project, alongside the ongoing work to restore Wingfield Station. (Both these projects are a result of DHBT undertaking a review of its activities and identifying the need to reinvigorate its work).

The HLF suggested that delivery and capacity for the BAR and South Wingfield Station projects would be further ensured if Derbyshire County Council was to become a formal partner on the BAR project.

Given the current limited resources, it is proposed that additional resources will be secured through the appointment of a BAR Coordinator to manage the project and an assistant officer if the bid to the HLF is successful. The two posts would be based within the Conservation, Heritage and Design at Derbyshire County Council and paid for through the HLF monies. It is also proposed that a partnership agreement be developed between Derbyshire County Council and DHBT to support delivery of the joint project. As part of the Partnership arrangement, Derbyshire County Council would undertake the role of accountable body and would financially administer the grant scheme.

(3) **Financial Considerations** The BAR project would be funded by the HLF. The HLF usually pays grants retrospectively against quarterly financial claims. To this end, Derbyshire County Council would need to fund the project on a quarterly basis. The value of the project over three years is estimated to be £450,000.

(4) **Legal Considerations** The Director of Legal Services will upon instructions from the Strategic Director - Economy Transport and Environment advise in relation to the partnership agreement between the Derbyshire County Council and the DHBT.

(5) **Human Resources Considerations** The project resources would need to be line managed by the head of the Conservation, Heritage and Design Service.

## **Other Considerations**

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

(6) **Key Decision** No.

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

(8) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. Officer contact details – Alex Gilbert, extension 39795.

(9) **OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS** That the Cabinet Member approves:

- 9.1 Derbyshire County Council developing and entering into a Partnership arrangement with Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust to deliver the Buildings at Risk project.
- 9.2 Derbyshire County Council entering into a partnership agreement with Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust, with details and final sign off delegated to the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment in liaison with the Director of Legal Services.
- 9.3 For Derbyshire County Council to become the accountable body for the project.
- 9.4 The recruitment of project funded Project Co-ordinator when the Heritage Lottery Fund is secured.

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