

Agenda Item No. 4(e)

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

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

**21 June 2016**

Report of the Strategic Director - Economy, Transport and Communities

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION AT BRITISH COUNCIL HERITAGE  
CONFERENCE IN LAHORE, PAKISTAN, 30 AUGUST TO 4 SEPTEMBER  
2016**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To seek approval for the Director of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (DVMWHS) to attend and participate in the British Council Heritage Conference in Lahore, Pakistan between 30 August to 4 September 2016. Travel, accommodation and subsistence costs will be paid by the British Council.

(2) **Information and Analysis** The British Council, in Pakistan, is organising a Museums and Heritage Conference which will take place in Lahore from 30 August to 4 September 2016.

The British Council is the United Kingdom's (UK) international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. It is a registered charity and was founded to create a friendly knowledge and understanding between the people of the UK and the wider world through cultural relations. It works in over 100 countries through programmes of arts, education and society. With respect to arts, its website states:

*“Our work in art involves the very best of British and international artistic talent. We help increase audiences for international work in the UK and for UK work globally. We bring artists together and support the development of skills and creative industries. Through this work, we ensure that culture in its broadest sense plays a vital role in connecting with and understanding each other”.*

This work is supported in the recent Culture White Paper (March 2016) which states that the UK Government wants the UK's national culture to enhance its global reputation further.

*“Through the British Council, we use culture to strengthen international relations and create educational opportunities...”*

*We will ask our public bodies to ensure that funding helps to develop the capacity of the cultural sectors to pursue new opportunities through international exchange, partnerships, enterprise and innovation. (The Culture White Paper p.43)”*

The White Paper also proposes the establishment of a £30 million Cultural Protection Fund to assist World Heritage Sites across the world. This will be managed by the British Council and will rely on expertise coming from within the UK heritage sector. The White Paper states that the UK wants to set a global standard in the stewardship of World Heritage Sites (*The Culture White Paper p.46*).

International engagement and co-operation is also something that is expected of World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. (World Heritage Convention 1972, Article 6(1))

The Director of the DVMWHS has been invited to attend and speak at this conference by the British Council, in liaison with World Heritage UK (WHUK), which is an independent charity that is the voice of all UK World Heritage Sites. WHUK is lobbying for a percentage of the Cultural Protection Fund to be earmarked for UK World Heritage Sites, arguing that home sites need to be supported so that experience and expertise can aid the work overseas. The Director has been invited to speak about the role of UK World Heritage Sites and museums and galleries in the section on Creating Pride of Place and Identity. This part of the conference is expected to include:

*“...presentations referring to (but not limited to) making heritage and museums relevant in a contemporary context where historical identity is being renegotiated, using museums and heritage sites to foster inter-faith dialogue and harmony, using museums to create a sense of national pride, and adaptive reuse and regeneration of heritage buildings.”*

The Director will present a paper which addresses this brief using much of the work carried out within the DVMWHS as a case study, as well as examples of good practice in other UK sites and museums.

The Director has previous experience of working overseas as an expert advisor and lecturer with the British Council, the UK Know-How-Fund and the Prince of Wales Business Leaders Forum in Russia, Bulgaria, Estonia and Hungary.

The benefits of attending and speaking at this conference will be:

- Providing the opportunity to promote the work of Derbyshire County Council to a global audience and the British Council.

- Demonstrating that the DVMWHS is nationally and internationally recognised as an authoritative voice.
- Promoting the work of the UK's World Heritage Sites.
- Providing a development opportunity for the Director to learn from colleagues attending the conference, which takes place in Lahore, which is also a World Heritage Site.

(3) **Financial Considerations** Other than Officer time, all costs associated with this visit including travel, accommodation and subsistence will be paid for by the British Council.

(4) **Social Value Considerations** The event does not involve any procurement of local companies or contractors. By speaking at the event the social value of the DVMWHS (local pride, engagement and tourism) will be promoted to an international audience. It will also be transmitted to a local audience through the media outlets of the DVMWHS; Newsletter, social media, talks etc.

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.

(4) **Key Decision** No.

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

(6) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Communities Department (DVMWHS). Officer contact details - Mark Suggitt, extension 36832.

(7) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION** That the Cabinet Member approves the attendance and participation of the Director of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site at the British Council Heritage Conference in Lahore, Pakistan, from 30 August to 4 September 2016.

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