

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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

21 June 2016

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Communities

**HERITAGE LOTTERY FUNDED PROJECT ‘LANDSCAPE LITERACY AND
DERBYSHIRE DICTIONARY’**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To seek approval to accept a grant, in principle, from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to carry out a project with up to 250 young people across the County, engaging them in their local heritage and landscape called ‘Landscape Literacy and Derbyshire Dictionary’.

(2) **Information and Analysis** Derbyshire Environmental Studies Service has applied, in partnership, to the HLF to run a project called ‘Landscape Literacy and Derbyshire Dictionary’. Successful projects should be announced at the end of July 2016. As the project requires work with schools to commence from September 2016, permission to accept this funding is requested, should it be secured, in advance of the decision being known in order to ensure that:

- The Project start-up is not delayed
- Valuable planning by the Project Team, through the summer when schools are absent, will not be lost.

This project will use the rich environment of Derbyshire to provide experiences and inspiration for approximately 250 young people to connect them with their local heritage. They will learn how to see and ‘read’ the heritage in their landscape, understand how we have been inspired by the landscape in the past, how it shapes lives today and explore the language used to describe these environments. Up to 10 school groups from across Derbyshire will each receive a series of heritage inspiration visits, including workshops in school, visits to built and natural heritage sites and to the Derbyshire Record Office. These heritage experiences, led by a range of experts, will inspire a range of literary responses from the children linked to the Landscape Character of Derbyshire, including factual report writing, heritage inspired story writing, poetry, drama and a ‘Derbyshire Dictionary’ collating local dialect words and place names linked to Derbyshire’s history and heritage. These will be shared online, in a printed publication and showcased at a celebration event. The project will produce a series of teachers’ resources that can be used in

Derbyshire, and further afield, beyond the life of the project to engage others in heritage learning.

The project will be managed by a partnership across the Economy, Transport and Communities Department, including Derbyshire Environmental Studies Service, the Literature Development Officer in the Derbyshire Arts Team and the Derbyshire Record Office. It will also work with external partners including the Peak District National Park Authority's Learning and Discovery Team, 1623 Theatre Company and Fish in a Tree Literacy specialists, as well as commissioning professional poets and writers to work with the children. Site visits will also be made to key heritage and landscape sites across the County.

'Landscape Character' will be used as the framework for engaging the young people. Helping young people to understand what landscape character is directly connects them with their heritage as it influences where settlements developed, the habitats found in an area, what Derbyshire heritage buildings are made from and where they are found, what industries people would have worked in and how people would have lived and spoken. Both Derbyshire and the Peak District National Park Authority have defined distinctive 'landscape character' areas of Derbyshire and use this information and documentation as a tool to protect, preserve and control development ensuring that the most sensitive cultural and environmental areas are conserved.

There is a real need for this project at this time, as Derbyshire's young people are losing connection with their landscapes and also with the words to be able to connect them to places. In 2014, the Junior Oxford Dictionary cut around 50 words connected with nature and the countryside from the 10,000-entry children's dictionary and replaced them with more solitary, indoor and digital based words. This project will provide opportunities to explore Derbyshire's landscape, words and dialects using old maps, documents, archives, community and inter-generational work. If these heritage and landscape words are not collected now, they may well be lost for the future as old trades, industries and features that shaped Derbyshire's language and conversations are lost.

If approved by the HLF, the project will start planning in late July 2016 and start delivery with primary schools from September 2016 to July 2017, with the remaining project elements being completed by December 2017.

(3) Financial Considerations The overall project will cost £69,000 to deliver. Grant funding of £62,000 is being sought from the HLF. The remaining £7,000 will be made up of contributions of £700 from each of the 10 participating project schools. Schools have been consulted as part of the bid preparation. Subsequent letters of support from the schools for the project have been received expressing their willingness to make this contribution and to participate in the project. This project has worked with a number of partner organisations and specialists to develop the project plan, the focus and

framework of the project activities. These organisations are partners to the application, and in order for this project to be viable, approval is required to appoint the following sole suppliers who have expert project knowledge and specific expertise areas to deliver elements of the project; Peak District National Park Authority Learning and Development Team, 1623 Theatre Company and Fish in a Tree Literacy Specialists.

(4) **Environmental Considerations** There are many elements that define landscape character but they can be divided into the physical and natural process, such as geology, landform and soils, and the human processes affecting settlement, enclosure patterns and land cover. Derbyshire has a very rich natural and built heritage with distinct character areas to draw from, including coal fields, moorlands, floodplains and a world heritage site. Landscape Character of Derbyshire and the Peak District Landscape Character assessment documents will be used throughout this project as inspiration and information sources. This will enable the children to build awareness and understanding of their environment, the pressures upon it and how these documents incorporate these environmental considerations.

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, health, property, social value 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 - Georgina Greaves, extension 33439.

(8) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That:

- 8.1 A sum of £62,000 is accepted from the Heritage Lottery Fund and a further £7,000 is accepted from the participating project schools to run the project 'Landscape Literacy and Derbyshire Dictionary' from August 2016 to December 2017, should a grant application for the Project be successful.
- 8.2 Approval is given to appoint the project partners Peak District National Park Authority Learning and Discovery Team, 1623 Theatre Company and Fish in a Tree literacy specialists to deliver elements of the project activities where their specialisms are required, subject to the grant application being successful.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Communities