

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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

24 March 2015

Report of the Strategic Director - Economy, Transport and Environment

FUNDING TO SUPPORT CRESWELL HERITAGE TRUST 2015-16

(1) **Purpose of Report** To seek approval to provide core funding to Creswell Heritage Trust of £38,000 for 2015-16, conditional on the sum being matched by Nottinghamshire County Council.

(2) **Information and Analysis** Creswell Heritage Trust was established by Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire County Councils in 1990. Its purpose, as an independent charitable body, is to manage and develop the unique archaeological and heritage assets of the Creswell Crags area.

The Trust is managed by a Council of Management which comprises nominated representatives from the two County Councils, Bolsover District Council, and the University of Sheffield. A number of other trustees from various sector organisations make up the full Council of Management of nine members.

The work of the Creswell Heritage Trust focuses on the Crags as an aspiring World Heritage Site on account of its international significance with a diverse collection of Ice Age artefacts, as a key tourism and heritage attraction, and as a driver for social and economic regeneration within the former coalfield of north-east Derbyshire, north Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire. The Creswell Heritage Trust, while being focused on Creswell Crags, aims to bring about environmental and access improvements, and economic regeneration and tourism benefits to communities throughout the area.

In 2014-15, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire County Councils were asked by the Heritage Trust to contribute an additional £12,000, specifically to assist the Trust following a period of financial pressure. Whilst this request for the additional funding was approved by both Councils, the Director of the Trust has been tasked by the Management Board with developing a revised business plan to place the trust on a sustainable financial foundation going forward.

The Trust has made considerable progress in stabilising its financial situation and developing the revised Business Plan. However, the Plan is not yet complete and momentum needs to be maintained. The Trust, however, has recently been awarded Transition Funding of £46,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to support it in undertaking a governance and operational review of its management arrangements to ensure it has the appropriate structures and skills available to it going forward. This review will also help the Trust in finalising its Business Plan.

In recognition of the above factors, it is therefore proposed that the Council's £38,000 core funding contribution to the Trust for 2015-16 be phased as quarterly payments, subject to continued satisfactory progress with both the successful completion of the governance and operational review of the Trust, and the successful completion of its Business Plan. The above contribution would be subject to it being matched by Nottinghamshire County Council.

(3) **Financial Considerations** The County Council, along with Nottinghamshire County Council, has historically made a core contribution to the Trust of £38,000. The core contribution can be met from the Countryside Service Revenue budget and, subject to approval, will be phased as quarterly payments of £9,500 subject to satisfactory progress with the governance and operational review of the Trust, and the successful completion of its Business Plan.

Nottinghamshire County Council has indicated it can match the above contributions in 2015-16.

Other 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, 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 Environment Department. Officer contact details – Richard Taylor, extension 39658.

- (7) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That the Cabinet Member:
- 7.1 Approves a core contribution of £38,000 to support the ongoing operation of the Creswell Heritage Trust in 2015-16 which is to be paid quarterly, subject to satisfactory progress towards the completion of the governance and operational review of the Creswell Heritage Trust's management and the production of a revised Business Plan.
 - 7.2 Approves the above subject to the contribution being matched by Nottinghamshire County Council.
 - 7.3 Endorses a review of the Council's funding contribution to the Creswell Heritage Trust beyond 2015-16 in light of pressures on the Countryside Service Budget, the outcome of the Trust's operational review and the long term sustainability of its Business Plan.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment