

Agenda Item No. 4(d)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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

28 February 2017

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Communities

**NATURAL ENGLAND CAPITAL FUNDING FOR RESTORATION OF THE
CROMFORD AND HIGH PEAK RAILWAY WHEEL PIT**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To seek the Cabinet Member's approval to add the restoration of the Cromford and High Peak Railway Wheel Pit at High Peak Junction to the 2016-17 Capital Programme.

(2) **Information and Analysis** On 10 September 2013, Cabinet approved the signing of a 10 year Higher Level Environmental Stewardship Agreement between the County Council and Natural England for grant funding for the management of land at Countryside sites in the west and south of Derbyshire (Minute No. 229/13 refers).

The Agreement covers both annual management and a four year work programme, which includes the £35,600 grant funding for the restoration of the historic Cromford and High Peak Railway Wheel Pit at High Peak Junction workshops as an item under the Historic and Archaeological Feature Protection measure. The Wheel Pit is in a declining condition and now in need of work to ensure the longevity of the fabric and restore/conservate each component to a good standard in accordance with the recommendations made in Hancock Wheeldon & Ascough structural appraisal report (Option 2) and the Hutton and Rostron timber condition report.

(3) **Financial Considerations** The restoration of the Wheel Pit is a specialist operation and will require the appointment of a suitable contractor sought through procurement and tender in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations. The Natural England grant is for 100% funding up to an agreed maximum of £35,600. Whilst it is anticipated that costs will not significantly differ from the original grant offer, any shortfall at the tender stage would be borne from the Countryside Service Revenue Budget.

(4) **Legal Considerations** Workshops, Offices and Terminus (Cromford and High Peak Railway) Scheduled Monument No. SM DR 245, HA 1007026.

An application for Scheduled Monument Consent to Historic England has been approved and consent granted in respect of the proposed works to the wheel pit at the above Scheduled Monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); Section 2 control of works.

(5) **Social Value Considerations** The Restoration of the Wheel Pit will contribute to the protection of a historic feature for the benefit of the local community and national heritage with scheduled monument status. It will add to the recreational value and attraction of the High Peak Junction workshops as a Countryside Destination for the benefit of visitors and tourists. It supports the work of Friends of Cromford Canal, a charitable organisation, whose aim is to see the restoration and conservation of the canal and its environs for recreational purposes and to preserve this valuable historical heritage.

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property 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 Communities Department. Officer contact details – Justine Spencer, extension 39651.

(9) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION** That the restoration of the Cromford and High Peak Railway Wheel Pit at High Peak Junction be added to the 2016-17 Capital Programme.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Communities