

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – JOBS, ECONOMY AND  
TRANSPORT**

**30 September 2014**

Report of the Strategic Director - Economy, Transport and Environment

**FUNDING TO SUPPORT CRESWELL HERITAGE TRUST  
2014/15**

(1) **Purpose of the Report** To seek approval to provide core funding to Creswell Heritage Trust of £38,000 for 2014/15 and to supplement this funding with an additional sum of £12,000 in this financial year only to assist the Trust during a period of transition towards the development of a new Business Plan. Both sums will be 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 Crag 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 9 members.

The work of the Creswell Heritage Trust focuses on the Crag 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 Crag, aims to bring about environmental and access improvements, and economic regeneration and tourism benefits to communities throughout the area.

Derbyshire County Council has historically been one of the core funders of the Trust, along with Nottinghamshire County Council, each making an annual core grant contribution of £38,000 for the operation of the Heritage Trust.

## Public

In 2013/14, both Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire County Councils were asked by the Heritage Trust to contribute an additional £12,000, specifically to assist the Trust during a period of financial pressure arising from a particularly poor summer in 2012 which impacted on its trading figures and cash flow.

Whilst this request for the additional funding was approved by both Councils and enabled the Trust to continue trading, the Trust, nevertheless, continues to find itself in challenging financial circumstances.

A new Director was appointed in December 2013 and, whilst the Trust has experienced a small increase in profit in the first quarter of 2014/15 in café and shop takings and school bookings are proving popular with most slots booked until March 2015, the financial sustainability of the Trust is far from secure. As a result, the Director has been urgently tasked by the Management Board with developing a revised business plan to turn the financial fortunes of the Craggs around and put it on a sustainable financial footing going forward.

The Trust has also sought the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund to review its operating model and assist it in developing its new Business Plan. A decision on whether it has been awarded funding for this work is pending.

In the meantime, however, additional funding from both Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire County Councils has been sought to ease the financial pressure the Trust continues to experience.

(3) **Financial Considerations** The County Council, along with Nottinghamshire has historically made a core contribution to the Trust of £38,000. In 2014/15, in addition to this contribution, the Trust is seeking an additional payment of £12,000 to support it whilst it reviews its operating model with a view to restructuring its management arrangements going forward. The core contribution can be met from the Countryside Service Revenue budget. Future contributions to the Trust will, however, need to be reviewed in light of pressure on this budget. The additional contribution of £12,000 for 2014/15 only can be met from the Economy, Transport and Environment earmarked reserve. Nottinghamshire County Council has indicated it can match the above contributions in 2014/15.

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.

## **Public**

(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 2014/15.
- 7.2 Approves an additional one-off contribution from an Economy, Transport and Environment earmarked reserve to the Creswell Heritage Trust of £12,000 in 2014/15 only to support a review of the Trust's operating model and development of a Business Plan which seeks to secure the financial sustainability of the Trust beyond March 2015.
- 7.3 Approves the above subject to the contributions being matched by Nottinghamshire County Council.
- 7.4 Endorses a review of the Council's funding contribution to the Creswell Heritage Trust from 2014/15 onwards 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**