

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET MEMBER MEETING - JOBS, ECONOMY AND  
TRANSPORT**

**4 March 2014**

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

**CROMFORD CANAL - DREDGING**

(1) **Purpose of the Report** To seek the Cabinet Member's approval to support, in principle, the Friends of Cromford Canal to seek monies to fund additional dredging on the canal.

(2) **Information and Analysis** Following the dredging scheme on the Cromford Canal undertaken by the County Council in 2013, the Friends of Cromford Canal have been operating the trip boat "Birdswood". Unfortunately, the depth of water in the last 600 metres - 700 metres of the canal, north of the terminus at Leawood Pumphouse, is not sufficient for the boat to pass without considerable difficulty and not when fully laden. This makes operating the service very difficult and slow, and impacts on the commercial viability of the scheme.

The Friends have been working with Council staff to undertake improvements where possible but these are limited within the resources available. The Friends are also aware that the budget for dredging this section is fully committed and that the Authority is not in a position to allocate further funding to this scheme.

The Friends therefore propose to mount a campaign to try to raise external funds to undertake this work. However, in order to do this and to satisfy potential funders, they are seeking confirmation that the County Council supports their proposal in principle. It is suggested that such support be given but only on the basis that there is no commitment by the Authority to give any financial support to the project although there would have to be a certain amount of Officer time devoted to the project to ensure that any bid was acceptable to the Authority. It will also be stipulated that any works will need County Council and other relevant permissions.

## **Public**

(3) **Financial Considerations** As detailed in the report, there would be an element of Officer time required to ensure any bid was acceptable. This would be met from existing resources and incur no additional costs.

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) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That the Cabinet Member:

- 6.1 Supports in principle the Friends of Cromford Canal undertaking a fund raising campaign to seek the resource subject to the County Council endorsing funding bids to carry out further dredging works on the Cromford Canal.
- 6.2 Requests that should resources be secured, any works on the Canal be subject to County Council approval and all relevant permission being in place.

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