

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP, CULTURE
AND TOURISM**

9 August 2018

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

FUNDING FOR CRESWELL HERITAGE TRUST

(1) **Purpose of Report** To seek the Cabinet Member's approval to award Creswell Heritage Trust (CHT) a grant to cover its external costs in appointing a consultant to undertake a comparative study of other European, particularly northern European, Palaeolithic sites. The consultant will then assist in coordinating and presenting at a workshop and will develop the next technical submission to HM Government to evaluate the potential success of Creswell Crags being submitted to the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) for Inscription onto the World Heritage List.

(2) **Information and Analysis** World Heritage Sites (WHSs) are cultural and/or natural heritage sites, the exceptional qualities of which can be considered to be of 'Outstanding Universal Value' (OUV) and, as such, are worthy of special protection. UNESCO compiles the list of WHSs following the World Heritage Convention in 1972. HM Government is a signatory to the World Heritage Convention.

One of the objectives of CHT is to pursue World Heritage Inscription for Creswell Crags. Derbyshire County Council has a stated commitment to "Support Creswell Crags to achieve World Heritage Status" in its Council Plan. To this end, Derbyshire County Council holds £40,000 in an earmarked reserve to assist CHT to offset external costs in pursuing World Heritage Inscription.

A 'Task and Finish' Group has been set up to assist CHT to forward its charitable objective in securing World Heritage Inscription. The Group consists of:

- The Chair of CHT
- The Director of CHT
- The University of Sheffield's appointed Trustee on CHT
- Derbyshire County Council's Head of Conservation, Heritage and Design

- Derbyshire County Council's County Archaeologist
- Nottinghamshire County Council's (NCC) Conservation Team Manager
- NCC's County Archaeologist

Creswell Crags was included on HM Government's Tentative List of sites to be put forward to UNESCO for consideration for World Heritage Inscription in 2011. Sites on the Tentative List nominally have 10 years to proceed to World Heritage Inscription. If this has not happened, or if no significant work has been undertaken to pursue inscription, then it is likely that a site will be removed from the Tentative List.

Shortly after Creswell Crags was included on the Tentative List, CHT submitted information to HM Government for a Technical Review. The chief finding from that review was that the OUV of Creswell Crags was not convincingly articulated and evidenced. The review also identified that a defensible Buffer Zone needed to be developed. To help substantiate Creswell Crags' OUV it was recommended that CHT undertakes a comparative study of other European Palaeolithic sites, particularly northern European sites.

CHT has not undertaken any further work in pursuit of World Heritage Inscription since the first Technical Review. CHT received funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to review its structure and operating model and appointed the National Trust to assist in this work. Many of the recommendations from this work have been implemented and the CHT is now in a healthier financial and operational position.

In order for CHT to be in a position to submit further information to HM Government for the next Technical Review, the comparative study needs to have been completed and a defensible Buffer Zone needs to have been developed. Derbyshire County Council's Conservation, Heritage and Design Service has assisted CHT in developing a draft Buffer Zone for Creswell Crags. A Buffer Zone is an area surrounding a WHS which has complementary legal and/or customary restrictions placed upon its use and development to give an added layer of protection. The next possible Technical Review 'slot' is autumn/winter 2018-19. To facilitate the material being ready for the Technical Review, it is proposed that CHT appoints a suitably qualified and experienced consultant to:

- i. undertake the comparative study in accordance with the brief that has been jointly developed between CHT, Derbyshire County Council and NCC;
- ii. feed into and present initial/developing findings of the comparative study at a workshop; and
- iii. compile and write the Technical Review submission.

The purpose of the planned workshop is to seek broad consensus that:

- the comparative study substantiates that Creswell Crags has sufficient attributes that manifest values that equate to OUV; and
- the proposed Buffer Zone is defensible and appropriate.

Notable academics, Historic England officers, landowner, officers and councillors from the district/borough and County councils, representatives from ICOMOS UK, representatives from World Heritage UK and representatives from recently inscribed sites on the World Heritage Tentative List will be invited to the workshop.

There is a very limited field of consultants who are able to undertake this commission due to the very specialist knowledge and experience that is required. Any consultant would need to be conversant with:

- the Palaeolithic period, Creswell Crags and associated archaeological evidence; and
- the requirements of UNESCO.

CHT has identified a potential consultant with appropriate experience and expertise to undertake the commission.

The consultant has produced a draft methodology and estimated cost breakdown summarised below:

Production of comparative study	£12,600
Production of information for the Technical Review	£2,100
Expenses, including travel and printing	£1,500
Total	£16,200

The figures do not include the workshop but, as the majority of the coordination and organisation of this will be undertaken by CHT, it is not envisaged that the consultant's additional costs will exceed £1,500.

It is proposed that CHT is offered a grant of £17,700 to cover its external costs in developing the submission material required by HM Government for the next Technical Review.

It is also proposed that a contingency of £2,300 is identified from the £40,000 earmarked reserve in case the costs identified in the report increase or if additional, associated work is required. It is proposed that any additional grant funding over the £17,700 is agreed between the Head of Conservation, Heritage and Design and the Cabinet Member for Strategic Leadership, Culture and Tourism prior to any additional money being granted to CHT. CHT will be expected to supply clear justification for any additional monies over £17,700.

(3) **Financial Considerations** Derbyshire County Council has an earmarked reserve of £40,000 to assist CHT offset its external costs in pursuing World Heritage Inscription for Creswell Crags. Any grant payments to CHT will be released on submission of receipted invoices.

If CHT receives positive feedback from the Technical Review then it is expected that Nottinghamshire County Council will match any support DCC has made up until that point, before DCC contributes any further funding.

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, social value 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 - Adam Lathbury, extension 39791.

(7) **OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS** That the Cabinet Member:

- 7.1 Approves a grant of £17,700 to Creswell Heritage Trust.
- 7.2 Approves a contingency of £2,300 in case the costs identified in the report increase or if additional, associated work is required.
- 7.3 Approves that the Head of Conservation, Heritage and Design be delegated to release the funding to Creswell Heritage Trust on submission of the appropriate evidence.
- 7.4 Notes that Derbyshire County Council's Conservation, Heritage and Design Service will be supporting the workshop by producing the Buffer Zone information for discussion and agreement.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment