

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING

16 October 2012

Report of the Strategic Director – Environmental Services

**REPLACEMENT OF LOCK GATES AT WHEELDON MILL LOCK,
CHESTERFIELD CANAL (HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT)**

(1) **Purpose of the Report** To seek Cabinet approval to add the Project for the replacement of the lock gates at Wheeldon Mill Lock on the Chesterfield Canal to the Capital Programme 2012/13 and to waive Standing Orders in relation to contracts to place a contract for the work.

(2) **Information and Analysis** Inspection of the lock gates at Wheeldon Mill Lock has revealed that deterioration of the gates has recently accelerated and reached a stage where they are no longer watertight. This causes problems with the passage of boat traffic. Temporary repairs have been carried out over the past few years but the gates are now in a condition which precludes further repairs being possible. A quotation has been sought from a specialist firm, Hargreaves Lock Gates, to remove the existing gates and to supply and fit new gates to the lock. These would be constructed of hardwood and have an expected lifespan of about 20 years. The quotation includes all the required fixtures of balance beams, plastic paddles, paddle brackets and new cills to the lock chamber. The contractor would be responsible for the construction of the gates and ancillary parts, delivery to site, installation and fitting, together with the removal and proper disposal of the old gates and other waste materials from the operation.

The supply and fitting of the lock gates is a specialist operation that cannot be undertaken by Council staff or general contractors. Hargreaves Lock Gates is the only company that can provide this work. It is the successor to the former Rochdale Canal Workshops at Callis Mill and run by the same experienced staff. The firm manufactured the current gates for Wheeldon Mill for the Chesterfield Canal Society more than 20 years ago. It has the experience of construction and fitting of lock gates at more than 800 sites across the canal network and has been extensively used by canal restoration projects. It has previously carried out specialist work for the County Council involving the supply and fitting of the new gates on the Chesterfield Canal at Tapton, Bluebank and Hollingwood Locks.

In view of the specialist nature of this work, approval is therefore sought to waive Standing Orders in relation to contracts and award a contract to Hargreaves Lock Gates to replace the lock gates at Wheeldon Mill at a cost of £34,000.

(3) **Financial Considerations** The cost of the replacement works can be met from a Departmental reserves to Capital Expenditure in 2012/13.

(4) **Legal Considerations** The Council's Standing Orders permit Cabinet to waive the requirement to seek competitive tenders in respect of a proposed contract where it is satisfied that there are special circumstances justifying exemption.

The Director of Legal Services has advised that the circumstances set out in this report justify the waiving of Standing Orders to enable this contract to be awarded.

(5) **Environmental Considerations** All the timber used will carry Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification.

(6) **Health Considerations** The extra provision of handrails on the lock gate walkways will enable Council staff and canal boat users to safely reach the far side of the lock to operate the lock paddle gear.

(7) **Property Considerations** The canal and the approach routes to the lock are all owned by the County Council.

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources and transport considerations.

(8) **Key Decision** No.

(9) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(10) **Background Papers** None. Officer contact details – Chris Monk, extension 39678.

(11) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That Cabinet agrees:

11.1 To waive Standing Orders in relation to contracts to enable a contract to be awarded to Hargreaves Lock Gates for the replacement of the lock

gates at Wheeldon Mill Lock on the Chesterfield Canal, as set out in the report.

- 11.2 That Wheeldon Mill Lock gates replacement project be added to the 2012/13 Capital Programme.

Ian Stephenson
Strategic Director – Environmental Services