

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING

16 April 2013

Report of the Strategic Director – Environmental Services

**AMENDMENT OF CORE CONTRIBUTION FUNDING TO
CRESWELL HERITAGE TRUST – 2013/14 (HIGHWAYS AND
TRANSPORT)**

(1) **Purpose of the Report** To seek approval to increase the core funding to Creswell Heritage Trust for 2013/14, from £38,000 to £50,000.

(2) **Information and Analysis** The Creswell Heritage Trust was established by Derbyshire County Council and Nottinghamshire County Council in 1990. The two Councils continue to be the principal core funders of the organisation.

The purpose of Creswell Heritage Trust is to manage and develop the unique archaeological and heritage assets of the Creswell Crags area and take the Creswell Initiative forward with its current goal of attaining the status of a World Heritage Site.

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. These representatives, together with a number of other trustees from various sector organisations make up the full Council of Management of nine members. Councillor Barry Lewis is the current Chair.

The Creswell Initiative focuses on the Crags as an aspiring World Heritage Site on account of its international significance with a diverse collection of Ice Age artefacts. The County Council's Cabinet, on 24 February 2012, agreed a financial contribution of £40,000 to support the Trust in its World Heritage Site ambitions. Nottinghamshire County Council has been asked to confirm that it will provide the same level of support to take the inscription bid forward.

The Creswell Initiative strategy identified a number of key infrastructure projects that were fundamental to protecting the heritage resource of Creswell Crags, working towards the World Heritage Site status inscription, and

delivering the economic and social benefits to the area. These have been completed and have been reported to previous Cabinet meetings.

The site continues to be a popular venue and, in the last 12 months, has hosted the return of the Bolsover Dragonfly fossil from the Natural History Museum and also the 13,000 year old swimming reindeer exhibition which is one of the most important pieces of Ice Age sculpture.

The Trust has continued to build on its previous successes securing a £1.9 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the "Limestone Journeys" project which is working towards developing the Archaeological Way into a major trail network in the immediate vicinity of the Craggs site and linking other local archaeological sites of interest. This five year project is another milestone to achieving World Heritage Site status.

The County Council makes an annual contribution to the core costs of the Heritage Trust of £38,000; a similar contribution is also received from Nottinghamshire County Council.

Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire County Councils are the only core contributors to Creswell Heritage Trust.

The Council's Core grant payment will allow the Trust to continue for the next 12 months in providing an important archaeological centre for the people of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and beyond, and develop the work described.

For 2013/14 Nottinghamshire County Council has indicated, however, that it wishes to increase its core funding contribution to the Trust from £38,000 to £50,000 to help the Trust during what the Council anticipates will continue to be a difficult trading period. It has approached Derbyshire County Council to do the same.

Though the Trust has had a successful year to date, there have been challenges to both visitor numbers and income generation. The Trust has staged a number of events which have helped to promote its work, but with poor weather and economic circumstances, these have not been as well attended as anticipated which has had a detrimental impact on income levels. It is considered that increasing the County Council's Core contribution from £38,000 to £50,000 in 2013/14 will help support the Trust through what is acknowledged will continue to be a difficult financial climate.

(3) Financial Considerations The County Council has existing revenue budget provision to make the core contribution of £38,000 for the operation of the Trust 2013/14. For 2013/14, it is proposed that the County Council increases its contribution to £50,000 towards the core costs as a one

off, matching the increased contribution of Nottinghamshire County Council. This increased contribution is subject to Nottinghamshire County Council confirming its support for World Heritage Site inscription. Future funding arrangements will be reviewed beyond this date.

It is recommended that the additional funding required of £12,000 be met from the Environmental Services underspend for 2012/13.

(4) **Property Considerations** There are no property considerations associated with this report

(5) **Key Decision** No.

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

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 and transport considerations.

(7) **Background Papers** Reports to the Cabinet Member – Highways and Transport dated 15 May 2012 (Minute No. 124/12 refers) and 24 March 2011 (Minute No. 54/11 refers). Officer contact details – Allison Thomas, extension 33300.

(8) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That Cabinet:

- 8.1 Approves an increase in the County Council's core funding payment to the Creswell Heritage Trust from £38,000 to £50,000 for the financial year 2013/14.
- 8.2 Approves the additional funding be met from Environmental Services underspend for 2012/13.
- 8.3 Approves that the increased contribution is made subject to Nottinghamshire County Council matching the increased contribution and confirming it will match Derbyshire County Council's commitment of £40,000, already approved, to support the Trust in its ambitions to secure World Heritage Site status for the site.

Ian Stephenson
Strategic Director – Environmental Services