

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING

18 June 2013

Report of the Acting Strategic Director – Environmental Services

**CROMFORD MILL SLUICE GATE (JOBS, ECONOMY AND
TRANSPORT)**

(1) **Purpose of the Report** To seek authority to undertake Capital works on a sluice gate mechanism in the yard at Cromford Mill that controls the water flow into the Cromford Canal and amend the 2013/14 Capital Programme to include this work.

(2) **Information and Analysis** The main water supply for the Cromford Canal is from the Bonsall Brook as it flows through the mill yard of Cromford Mill. From the main channel the water flows over a weir into a pit where, under normal water flows, it goes into the Canal. However, under high water flows, it should be possible to open the sluice gate which then sends the water via another channel into the River Derwent without it ever entering the Canal. The sluice gates have not worked properly for some years and, in recent times, water control has been carried out by adjusting the stop planks on the main channel to prevent water coming over the weir in the first place. This is unsatisfactory as the level of control is limited unless the planks are completely removed and this is felt to be potentially dangerous if it needs to be done in extreme weather. It is therefore proposed to carry out works to the sluice gates to provide a safe and simple method of control.

The actual watercourses, associated structures and control mechanisms all belong to the Arkwright society. The sluice gate in question, however, serves no function for the mill, being purely for the control of the supply to the Canal and is not, therefore, a priority for the society to deal with. It is therefore proposed that the Authority undertakes the required work.

Controlling the flow of water in to the Canal is critical to meet the requirements of the Management Plan, which is an Agreement between the County Council and Natural England, to maintain this part of the Canal which has the status of Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The work will involve the removal and complete replacement of the wooden frame which has rotted and dismantling the metal work, removing it for

cleaning and then reassembling it. As the building is listed, this would all be done on a like-for-like basis and is subject to approval by Derbyshire Dales District Council as the Local Planning Authority.

Initial discussions have indicated that the cost of the work would be in the region of £15,000 and competitive quotations will be sought for the work to be carried out. Cabinet is requested to give delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Jobs, Economy and Transport to agree the expenditure for the proposed works.

(3) **Financial Considerations** Funding for this work will be met from the approved revenue budget as a revenue contribution towards capital expenditure.

In the preparation of 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) **Background Papers** None. Officer contact details - Chris Coombs, extension 39821.

(7) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That:

- 7.1 The work to undertake repairs to the sluice gate mechanism in Cromford Mill Yard be added to the 2013/14 Capital Programme.
- 7.2 Approval be given to seek competitive quotes to undertake Capital work to the sluice gate mechanism in Cromford Mill yard.
- 7.3 Cabinet gives delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Jobs, Economy and Transport to agree the expenditure for the proposed works.
- 7.4 The funding be from the approved revenue budget in the form of a revenue contribution towards capital expenditure.

Mike Ashworth
Acting Strategic Director – Environmental Services