

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING

18 June 2013

Report of the Acting Strategic Director – Environmental Services

**DREDGING PROGRAMME, CROMFORD CANAL (JOBS,
ECONOMY AND TRANSPORT)**

(1) **Purpose of the Report** To report on the additional work related to the dredging contract on the Cromford Canal and to seek approval to allocate additional funding to cover the increase in expenditure on this project.

(2) **Information and Analysis** A sum of £300,000 was allocated in the Capital Programme 2012/13 to undertake the dredging of the Cromford Canal between Cromford Wharf and Leawood Pumphouse. This part of the Cromford Canal has the status of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The dredging of the Canal is included in the Management Plan between the County Council and Natural England as part of the protection of the SSSI. The work meets both the requirements of the ecological management plan for the Canal and allows for the development of a trip boat service on this section. The contract for the dredging of the Canal is currently nearing completion. In undertaking the contract there have been a number of unforeseen costs. The main issues included the securing of licence fees for the land required to accept the silt removed from the Canal. Originally, there were two sites planned, one at either end of the section to be dredged. Unfortunately, one could not be used because of the presence of Great Crested Newts. This increased the licence costs as it was agricultural land rather than the old sewage beds and it increased the costs of transporting the silt. Additionally, the requirement to obtain planning permission, as the work was in a World Heritage Site had not been realised at the outset and resulted in an additional expenditure of £13,490. There have also been a number of smaller items including the need to use contractors for some of the tree work as the size and location meant the trees were beyond what our own staff could safely deal with, additional ecological monitoring and the mobilising of additional resources to pull back time lost to the bad weather.

(3) **Financial Considerations** In order to allocate the additional budget required it has been recognised that this takes priority over other works and there is capacity within the Cromford Canal Revenue budget to

enable a contribution of £40,250 to be made to cover the additional expenditure including a small sum for contingencies.

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

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.

(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.

(7) **Background Papers** None. Officer contact details – Chris Coombs, extension 39821.

(7) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION** That Cabinet approves the revised cost of this scheme and a revenue contribution towards Capital expenditure of £40,250, as detailed in the report, in order to increase the Capital budget for the project for the dredging of the Cromford Canal.

Mike Ashworth
Acting Strategic Director – Environmental Services