

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING

21 January 2014

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

REVISIONS TO DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS WITH CRESWELL HERITAGE TRUST FOR 2013/14 (JOBS, ECONOMY AND TRANSPORT)

(1) **Purpose of the Report** To seek Cabinet approval to amend the conditions attached to an increase in Derbyshire County Council's core funding to Creswell Heritage Trust for 2013-14, agreed by Cabinet in April 2013, and Use the £40,000 reserve secured to develop the Creswell Crags World Heritage Site nomination submission independently of an equal contribution from Nottinghamshire County Council.

(2) **Information and Analysis** In a joint report from the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance to Cabinet in January 2012 (Minute No.27/12 refers), £40,000 was secured from departmental underspend to address a service pressure to contribute to the development of Creswell Crags World Heritage Site (WHS) submission to UNESCO. The development of the WHS submission is being led by Creswell Heritage Trust (CHT).

It was envisaged and agreed that Derbyshire County Council's £40,000 contribution to the WHS submission's development would be matched by Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC). However, this was not a formal condition of the allocation.

In a subsequent report from the Strategic Director - Environmental Services to Cabinet on 16 April 2013 (Minute No.113/13 refers), approval was obtained to increase the County Council's core annual funding to CHT from £38,000 to £50,000 for just one financial year – April 2013 to March 2014. It was recommended that the increased contribution was made subject to Nottinghamshire County Council matching the increased contribution and confirming it would 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.

Since the report on 16 April 2013, NCC has confirmed that it cannot match the £40,000 that Derbyshire County Council allocated in January 2012 but it has agreed to the increase in revenue funding. This report seeks to disentangle

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the County Council's £40,000 contribution to the development of Creswell Crags WHS submission, and the County Council's increased core funding for 2013/14, from the requirement of NCC to match the £40,000 secured in January 2012.

Derbyshire County Council's £40,000 could still make a considerable contribution to the delivery of the submission documents.

In April 2012, as a result of a technical evaluation of Creswell Crags potential submission, the Creswell Crags Tentative List WHS Steering Group prepared a report for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, which is responsible for nominating bids by the 'State Party' to UNESCO, for consideration.

The report, while supportive of the proposal, did identify a number of weaknesses in the submission material at that time. The two main deficiencies identified were a buffer zone for the site and the case for Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

Since the technical evaluation, the Landscape Architects in the Conservation and Design Section at Derbyshire County Council have been assisting CHT in developing a defensible buffer zone. It is hoped that this work is now complete and that the buffer zone boundary will be acceptable at the next technical evaluation.

The OUV of Creswell Crags needs to be underpinned by academic research. The principal part of this is comparative studies of the archaeology and palaeontology of other sites across Europe with a focus on northern Europe. It is understood that this work has yet to start. It has been estimated that the comparative studies alone could cost in the region of £10,000. This, with other studies, not including the buffer zone, could total between £30,000 to £40,000.

The County Council's £40,000 previously approved could be used to support CHT when it needs to appoint external consultants for the development of the WHS submission material. Any amount surplus to these research activities could be used to help pay for any external consultant, for example, graphic designers, that are needed to develop the nomination document.

While £40,000 will significantly assist CHT in Developing the Creswell Crags WHS documentation, particularly in relation to academic studies, it is unlikely to be sufficient to complete the inscription submission to UNESCO. With this in mind, CHT may ask both Derbyshire County Council and NCC for further financial assistance in the future, which would be the subject of a further report.

It was initially hoped that, following the results of the technical evaluation in April 2012, the weaknesses identified would be addressed sufficiently so that

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the nomination material could go through another technical evaluation in October 2013. Unfortunately, this has not been possible and the next date that an evaluation can take place is October 2014.

(3) **Financial Considerations** The funding of £40,000 to develop the Creswell Crags WHS nomination and the funding to increase the County Council's core funding to CHT to £50,000 for 2012-13 has already been secured from departmental underspend.

(4) **Environmental and Health Considerations** As contained in the 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, 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** Cabinet reports dated 24 January 2012 (Minute No. 27/12 refers) and 16 April 2013 (Minute No. 113/13 refers). Officer contact details – Adam Lathbury, extension 39791.

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

8.1 Agrees to remove the requirement that the increased core funding to Creswell Heritage Trust for 2013/14, approved by Cabinet on 16 April 2013 is conditional on Nottinghamshire County Council providing match funding for the initial £40,000 secured in January 2012 but notes that the increase in core funding for 2013/14 remains conditional on Nottinghamshire County Council matching the increased core funding.

8.2 Approves the £40,000 funding secured in January 2012 being used to support Creswell Heritage Trust in developing the Creswell Crags World Heritage Site nomination submission without the need for match funding from Nottinghamshire County Council and that it is used to offset external costs to Creswell Heritage Trust in developing Creswell Crags World Heritage Site nomination submission.

8.3 Notes the progress outlined in the report made by Creswell Heritage Trust in developing the Creswell Crags World Heritage submission.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment