

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

3 May 2016

Joint Report of the Strategic Director - Economy, Transport and Communities
and the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources

**ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS AT BUXTON MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY
(HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES)**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To seek Cabinet approval to use £231,000 from the Capital Contingency budget to fund access improvements at Buxton Museum and Art Gallery.

(2) **Information and Analysis** In February 2015, following the award of a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) of £868,100, a project began at Buxton Museum and Art Gallery (BMAG) to improve the public galleries and access to the collections. A condition of the grant was that the Council improves access at BMAG, in particular to the first floor and improvements to the public toilets. The current means of accessing the upper floor, via a public chairlift which can only carry one person at a time, is no longer appropriate in a public service building which caters for users of all ages and abilities. The public toilet is also inaccessible for wheelchair users and other people with mobility issues. Failure to provide improved access within the building may mean the Council will need to repay some, or all, of the HLF grant.

As a replacement chairlift would not be an appropriate solution, the alternative options have been explored with the Director of Property. The proposed solution is to provide an external lift on the south elevation of the Peak Buildings, with access provided by breaking through existing window embrasures. Contractors would gain access via the current staff car park to provide foundations and ultimately, there will be a limited loss of car parking.

Provision of accessible toilets at BMAG is straightforward with a redesign of the current floor area required to provide four cubicles.

A cost of £335,000 has been identified for the installation of a lift and improvements to the toilets, and is broken down below.

Description	Cost
Lift extension including external works	£150,000
Associated knock through	£20,000
First floor toilet refurbishment	£80,000

Professional fees and disbursements	£45,000
Contingency and design risk	£30,000
Inflationary increase Q3 2016	£10,000
Total	£335,000

Funding of £104,000 towards the total costs has been found from existing budgets within Property Services and the former Health and Communities Department.

Identified funding (access budget)	
BMAG works	£54,000
Chesterfield Library handrail	£25,000
Heanor Library changing places	£20,000
Hearing loop underspend	£5,000
Total	£104,000

This leaves a shortfall of £231,000 which it is requested is met from the Capital Contingency budget. The BMAG is still seeking to raise additional funding for the overall programme of developments and, should any of these grant applications be successful, any funding granted for access improvements will be repaid to the Capital Contingency.

(3) **Financial Considerations** As outlined in the body of 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, 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** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Communities Department. Officer contact details – Don Gibbs, extension 36572.

(7) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION** That Cabinet approves the expenditure of £231,000 from the Capital Contingency budget to fund access improvements at Buxton Museum and Art Gallery.

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