

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING

3 July 2012

Report of the Strategic Director – Environmental Services

**COUNTRYSIDE CAPITAL PROGRAMME (HIGHWAYS AND
TRANSPORT)**

(1) **Purpose of the Report** To request changes to the Countryside Capital Programme.

(2) **Information and Analysis** The Countryside Capital programme is funded by a variety of external grants and Local Transport Plan funds with the County Council providing a capital fund to “pump prime” the external funding process. The annual schedule of capital projects are set down in the Appendices of the relevant Service Plans.

A variety of projects over the last four years have been completed, either under budget or funded from alternative sources, with a few projects being cancelled. The total available as a result of the above is £105,838. Three projects have incurred costs in excess of the original budget.

The project, which has incurred the most additional costs, is Hollingwood Lock House, which is an innovative and highly successful community project.

The original project budget approved in 2008 was £443,294, the majority of which (£380,000) came from the Big Lottery Community Asset programme. The terms of this grant imposed a tight timescale for delivery of a completed scheme. Although the overall budget was insufficient to meet the initial project cost estimate (£457,153), the scheme was allowed to proceed on the understanding that officers would seek additional funds to meet the shortfall.

During the project, there have been unforeseen additional building costs during renovation of the old structure, some of which have been accommodated by cancelling other work items. However, this has brought the project total to £516,874.05. A number of additional applications for funding were made but came to nothing as programmes were cancelled or withdrawn during the economic downturn. The project is over budget by £73,580.

On the other two schemes, minor variations to costs have resulted in expenditure exceeding approved budget on Cromford Canal and Derwent Valley Greenway of £1,281 and £3,763 respectively.

It is proposed that the Countryside Service should reallocate funding on projects from the last four years, by using £78,557 of the funding no longer required for the original projects, and allocate it to those projects that require additional resources.

(3) **Financial Considerations** The proposed transfer of unused funds (£78,557) will provide the additional budget required for the projects referred to above. It is proposed that the unutilised resources from the last four years be allocated to the 2012/13 Capital Programme to fund future projects which will be subject to Cabinet Member approval.

(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 – Richard Bonner, extension 39657.

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

8.1 The adjustments to the Countryside Capital Programme.

8.2 The remaining resources of £27,214, associated with Countryside projects that have been completed in the last four years, be reallocated to 2012/13 Countryside Capital Programme to fund future projects.

Ian Stephenson
Strategic Director – Environmental Services