

6 September 2018**Agenda Item:14****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, INVESTMENT AND GROWTH****PROVISION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVICE****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval for the provision of archaeological advice to District and Borough Councils in partnership with Lincolnshire County Council's planning archaeology service.
2. To seek approval for the establishment of a Planning Archaeologist post within the Conservation Team.
3. To seek approval for the secondment of a member of Lincolnshire County Council's planning archaeology service in to the Planning Archaeologist post.

Information

4. The County Council historically provided advice on archaeological matters to the District and Borough Councils for their role as Local Planning Authorities. Budget reductions and associated structural changes within the Conservation service, however, meant that the County Council was no longer able to provide this advice to the District and Borough Councils on an unpaid for basis. The advice service was, therefore, withdrawn in October 2017.
5. Since that time, discussions have continued with Historic England and the District and Borough Councils with a view to finding a mechanism for the provision of the archaeological advice required on a paid for basis. Newark and Sherwood District Council and Bassetlaw District Council have indicated that they wish to buy in their archaeological planning advice from Lincolnshire County Council.
6. Lincolnshire County Council has successfully operated such a service within Lincolnshire for a number of years and currently has some staff capacity available which they wish to utilise to provide advice to authorities in Nottinghamshire. In order to provide advice to District and Borough Councils within Nottinghamshire, their member of staff would need regular access to information and historic environment data held by Nottinghamshire County Council.
7. It is, therefore, proposed that the County Council works in partnership with Lincolnshire County Council in the provision of archaeological planning advice to Newark & Sherwood and Bassetlaw District Councils in the first instance. In order to do so, the post of Planning Archaeologist would be established within the Conservation Team and a member of Lincolnshire County Council's staff would be seconded into this post on a part-time basis.
8. The service would be provided under a Service Level Agreement and the costs of the member of staff would be covered by the District Councils and would be cost neutral to this authority.

9. When working on planning matters within Nottinghamshire, the postholder would be supervised by the County Council's Senior Practitioner Archaeology.

Other Options Considered

10. Nottinghamshire County Council does not currently have the capacity available to provide archaeological planning advice on the part-time basis required and experience from other authorities indicates that it is extremely difficult to recruit to a post of this nature unless it is offered on a full time basis.
11. Enabling Lincolnshire County Council's staff member to access the County Council's historic environment information as a visitor creates capacity issues for staff within the Historic Environment Record and also presents data security issues for information held electronically.

Reason for Recommendation

12. To facilitate the provision of archaeological planning advice to Newark and Sherwood and Bassetlaw District Councils and ensure that this is based on the best available information, thereby enabling better protection and understanding of the County's archaeological resource in those districts.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Data Protection and Information Governance

14. As a member of County Council staff on a secondment basis, the postholder would be bound by Nottinghamshire County Council's policies and procedures relating to data protection and information governance.

Financial Implications

15. The costs of the service provision would be covered by the District Councils.

Human Resources Implications

16. The postholder would remain on Lincolnshire County Council's payroll for the duration of the secondment. There would be a supervisory requirement from the County Council's Senior Practitioner Archaeology.

Implications for Service Users

17. The proposal will ensure that Newark and Sherwood and Bassetlaw District Councils are able to access the required archaeological advice in their roles as Local Planning Authorities, to inform the decision-making process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That Committee approves the proposal to work in partnership with Lincolnshire County Council to provide archaeological planning advice on a paid for basis.
- 2) That Committee approves the establishment of a Planning Archaeologist post within the Conservation Team.
- 3) That Committee approves the secondment of a member of LCC's planning archaeology service in to the Planning Archaeologist post, on a part-time basis.

David Hughes
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Investment and Growth

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Heather Stokes, Team Manager Conservation, Tel: 0115 9932592

Constitutional Comments [LM 09/08/2018]

18. The Communities and Place Committee is the appropriate body to consider the contents of the report.

Financial Comments [CSB 13/08/2018]

19. The financial implications are contained within the report.

HR Comments [JP 14/08/2018]

20. The post is initially until 31.3.2019. Management of the post to be provided by NCC.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All Newark and Sherwood and Bassetlaw Electoral Divisions