

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR PLACE**CRESWELL HERITAGE TRUST PARTNERSHIP AWARD FOR 2016/17 TO 2019/20.****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek Committee approval for continued partnership funding for the Creswell Heritage Trust of £38,000 per annum, in support of the operation and running costs of the onsite museum and education centre at Creswell Crags and the outreach programme for 2016/17.
2. To seek Committee approval for the provision of continued funding for Creswell Heritage Trust of £38,000 in 2017/18, £25,000 in 2018/19 and £12,500 in 2019/20 in accordance with their agreed Business Plan and subject to achieving key performance indicators relating to financial performance and site management.

Information and Advice

3. Creswell Heritage Trust is the body responsible for the operational management of the facilities at Creswell Crags. The Crags sit on the border of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire and are recognised as one of Britain's most important cultural, archaeological and scientific sites. They are at the northern limit of human occupation during the ice age and contain Britain's only example of rock art in Church Hole Cave. A visitor centre, including a museum, shop, cafe and educational facilities, opened on the site in June 2009. In 2012/13 Creswell Crags was included on the UK tentative list for future World Heritage nominations to UNESCO (the United Nations Organisation for Education, Science and Culture).
4. Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire County Councils have jointly provided funding to support the operational costs of the facilities since the formation of the Trust in 1991 and are joint guarantors on the lease, along with the land owner, Welbeck Estates. In addition the County Councils provide the Trust with officer support, particularly in legal services, human resources and conservation advice.
5. Heritage Lottery Fund Transition funding was successfully secured in 2014, for the completion of a robust Business Plan to enable the Trust to move away from reliance on Local Authority funding and to secure a sustainable future. The Business Plan was completed by the end of 2015 and agreed by the Trust's Council of Management.
6. Since the adoption of the Plan, however, there have been a number of significant staff changes within the Trust, including the appointment of a new Director, Finance Manager and Café and Visitor Services Supervisors. The Trust has also successfully secured Rural Resilience Funding from the Arts Council England for two key posts of Fundraising and Communications Manager and Volunteer and Audience Development Co-ordinator. The

new Director brings significant experience from both the commercial sector and from management of museums/ visitor attractions and will be using this experience to work with the Trustees and staff to refine and improve the Business Plan over the coming months.

7. The successful implementation of the Plan is also predicated on the two County Councils maintaining their contributions of £38,000 p.a. each up to and including 2017/18. Funding from each Authority would then reduce on a planned basis to £25,000 in 2018/19 and to £12,500 in 2019/20, with the expectation that it would reduce to zero in 2020/21.
8. The confirmation of local authority funding as set out in paragraph 7 would provide a necessary measure of certainty to the Trust in the development and implementation of its Plan. This funding is contained within the base budget for the Conservation Team for 2016/17. It is proposed that the continued funding up to and including 2019/20 would also be met from the Conservation Team base budget, subject to satisfactory progress against key performance indicators and the provision of similar levels of funding from Derbyshire County Council.

Other Options Considered

9. The option of not continuing to fund the Trust has been considered but this has not been taken further, in view of both Local Authorities acting as lease guarantors. In the event of the Trust ceasing to operate, responsibility for managing Creswell Crags would rest with the two County Councils. The option of reducing the level of support at this time has also been considered but it would be likely to have a very damaging impact on the Trust's ability to manage the site as it moves to fully implement the recommendations of the agreed Business Plan.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. Nottinghamshire County Council's partnership contribution is part of the core funding of Creswell Heritage Trust. The continuation of County Council financial assistance is subject to a similar contribution from Derbyshire County Council.
11. The confirmation of continued funding from the two County Councils on a reducing basis is considered critical to the successful implementation of the Business Plan and to ensuring a sustainable future for the Trust that is not reliant on local authority contributions.

Statutory and Policy Implications

12. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, 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, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

The funding is contained within the base budget for the Conservation Team for 2016/17. It is proposed that the continued funding, as set out in paragraph 7 above, would also be met from the Conservation Team base budget.

Implications for Service Users

Creswell Crag is an important part of the wider culture and heritage of Nottinghamshire and the County Council partnership funding helps ensure that it can continue to operate for the benefit of its visitors.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

Creswell Crag has a significant implication for our environmental history, heritage and culture where the partnership funding currently makes a critical contribution.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1. That the partnership funding of £38,000 to Creswell Heritage Trust to support its operating costs for the financial year 2016/17, subject to a similar level of award being made by Derbyshire County Council, be approved.
- 2) That the provision of continued funding for Creswell Heritage Trust of £38,000 in 2017/18, £25,000 in 2018/19 and £12,500 in 2019/20 in accordance with their agreed Business Plan and subject to achieving key performance indicators and to similar levels of awards from Derbyshire County Council, be approved.

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Constitutional Comments (LMcC 03/01/17)

13. The recommendations in the report fall within the Terms of Reference of the Culture Committee.

Financial Comments (SES 30/12/16)

14. The financial implications are set out in the report.

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 and Member Affected

- Tuxford. Councillor Ogle.