

PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP, CULTURE AND TOURISM** held on 24 October 2019 at County Hall, Matlock

PRESENT

Cabinet Member – Councillor B Lewis

Also in attendance – Councillor R Flatley

17/19 **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

18/19 **PROPOSED CHANGES TO OPENING HOURS AT THE DERBYSHIRE RECORD OFFICE** At its meeting on 11 September 2019, Cabinet agreed a new Five Year Financial Plan for the County Council and this included a range of budget savings proposals over the lifetime of the plan. One of the areas identified for savings was a review of opening hours and staffing levels at the Derbyshire Record Office (DRO) to achieve savings of £60,000. In order to achieve these savings it was proposed to consult with the public about possible changes to the opening hours at the DRO. Once the consultation process had been concluded a further report would be presented to the Cabinet Member to consider the outcome of the consultation and, potentially, to consider proposals for revised opening hours and a proposed staffing structure, which could realise a saving of up to £60,000 from the DRO budget.

Currently, the DRO was open four days a week (9.30am to 5.00pm) for a total of 30 hours and it opened on one Saturday a month. A summary of the services offered was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

It was proposed to undertake a public consultation exercise over a proposed reduction to the opening hours at the DRO from 30 to 22.5 hours a week, a reduction of 25%. (There was no proposal to change the current pattern of Saturday opening). In addition to consulting on the proposed reduction in opening hours, four alternative proposals would be consulted upon based on current levels of use and these were attached as Appendix 2 to the report. Each option retained the current arrangements for opening on the last Saturday of each month from 9.30am to 4pm. If alternative opening hours proposals arose as part of the consultation process they would also be considered.

The proposed reduction in opening hours was mitigated by the significant improvements that had been made to providing digital access to material online. These actions had increased the accessibility of the collections held in the DRO to a worldwide audience and even when the physical building was closed the digital access remained available 24/7. The DRO aspired to provide an online service that maximised the resources available and had developed a strategy to continue to digitise Derbyshire's archives and make them accessible.

It was proposed that the Council undertook a period of consultation to:

- Set out the financial context and challenges within which decisions on future service delivery need to be made.
- Share and explore the opening hours options outlined in appendix 2.
- Receive feedback on the proposed reduction and the potential impact of the options.

As a Place of Deposit for Public Records, the County Council was also required to consult with The National Archives (TNA) over any changes to opening hours to ensure that they did not impact on the Record Office's accredited status.

The feedback received would be analysed as to the proposed reduction in hours and as to the four initial options and the results would be evaluated. If alternative proposals arose as part of the consultation process they would also be considered as part of the analysis.

A report would be submitted in January/February 2020 which would further consider any changes to opening hours at the DRO and subject to the outcome of the consultation, would also include proposals for a revised staffing structure, if any changes to be agreed. The potential staffing implications of any reduction in opening hours would then also be the subject of formal consultations with individual employees and the trade unions in accordance with the Council's policies and statutory requirements.

RESOLVED to approve that (1) a six week public consultation on options for revised opening hours at the Derbyshire Record Office be undertaken;

(2) the results of the consultation and an Equality Impact Analysis are presented to a future meeting prior to any decision being made as to changes to the opening hours at the Derbyshire Record Office; and

(3) subject to the outcome of the consultation and the Cabinet Member's decision, proposals for a revised staffing structure at the Derbyshire Record Office are developed and reported for consideration.

19/19 TRENT VALLEY VISION – NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE HORIZON AWARDS

The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) had recently launched the Heritage Horizon Awards for grants of £5 million and over. The concept behind the award was 'Backing big ideas, unlocking possibilities'. The NLHF was looking for projects that were transformative, innovative and collaborative and met its strategic priorities of 'landscape and nature' and 'heritage at risk'.

Projects should demonstrate clear and ambitious plans that would bring about positive changes and benefits for people, places and wider heritage. In order to bid for the Award, an Expression of Interest was required to be submitted to the NLHF by 11 October 2019. The NLHF would notify shortlisted projects by December 2019, inviting them to submit an application for development phase funding by August 2020.

If the Trent Valley Vision project was shortlisted, then a development phase application would need to be submitted by 31 August 2020. Applicants must contribute at least 10% of the costs of the development phase and 10% of the costs of the delivery phase. The NLHF described contributions as "partnership funding" and it could be made up of cash, non-cash contributions, volunteer time or a combination of all of these. The Trent Valley Vision was an environmental-led regeneration initiative aimed at transforming the landscape of the Trent Valley over a 50 year period to generate a £multi-billion leisure and recreation economy at the heart of England.

An economic study of the Trent Valley within Derbyshire concluded that for the period 2020 to 2050, the benefits of the landscape-led Vision were estimated to be:

- £16 billion of economic benefits.
- £450 million of social and environmental benefits.

Retrospective approval was therefore sought, for the County Council, on behalf of the D2N2 (Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire) Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), to submit an Expression of Interest to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) for its Heritage Horizons Awards.

RESOLVED to retrospectively approve that Derbyshire County Council submit on behalf of the D2N2 (Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire) Local Enterprise Partnership, an Expression of Interest to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for its Heritage Horizons Awards.