

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP, CULTURE
AND TOURISM**

7 February 2020

Report of the Executive Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

**WITHDRAWAL OF AWARD OF GRANTS TO EXTERNAL RECIPIENTS
VITAL VALLEY (HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND GREAT PLACE SCHEME)
AND THE PROCUREMENT OF COMMISSION**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To update the Cabinet Member on the withdrawal of grants to external recipients and inform the Cabinet Member that Derbyshire County Council, on behalf of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (DVMWHS) Partnership, will commission the Options Appraisal and Feasibility Study for a visitor attraction as part of Strutt's North and East Mills in Belper.

(2) **Information and Analysis** In accordance with Financial Regulations, all grants to external recipients must be approved and a departmental register maintained. Grants are payments of funds for a specific purpose. Examples include contributions towards an external party's core running costs, purchase or construction of specified assets, and the running of specific events.

There is now, also, a requirement under the Local Government Transparency Code 2014 to publish information on grants awarded to voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations.

Derbyshire County Council, on behalf of the DVMWHS Partnership, accepted a grant offer from the Heritage Lottery Fund (now - National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF)) for a Great Place Scheme in the DVMWHS. The Great Place Scheme included "Old Spaces, Creative Futures", a project to facilitate a co-ordinated approach to the regeneration of the Belper Mills complex, particularly the North and East Mills. The project aimed to develop new ideas for these significant historical buildings in Belper to benefit businesses and residents through a re-development to increase cultural opportunities and secure the economic future of the buildings. The NLHF approved these activities in the Great Place Scheme. The project commenced in 2018, as part of the Great Place Scheme. All Great Place Scheme activities must be completed by December 2020 in accordance with the NLHF terms of grant.

The DVMWHS Partnership Co-ordination Team, through the Great Place Scheme, agreed with the NLHF, that an Options Appraisal and Feasibility Study is required to review the viability and form of the visitor offer housed on the North and East Mills site and that the study should be undertaken in consultation with Belper North Mill Trust (BNMT), FI Real Estate Management (FI) and Amber Valley Borough Council (AVBC). BNMT is the operator of the accredited museum housed in the North Mill. FI is the property management company for the landowner of the North and East Mills site. AVBC is the local planning authority for the North and East Mills site.

Through discussion with relevant stakeholders, and specifically NLHF, it has become clear that the commissioning organisation needs to demonstrate clear lines of responsibility to the production, co-ordination and delivery of DVMWHS's Management Plan, which in this instance is the DVMWHS Partnership.

The DVMWHS Partnership is a coalition of stakeholders and includes representatives from the relevant statutory and local authorities, BNMT and ABVC. The work of the Partnership is supported and facilitated by the DVMWHS Partnership Co-ordination Team, hosted by the County Council.

The "Old Spaces, Creative Futures" project has considered various options for the commissioning of the Options Appraisal and Feasibility Study between members of the DVMWHS Partnership and through discussion, it is considered that responsibility for the work is better aligned to the work of the Board as a whole, rather than one of the individual partners.

As part of the wider discussion, consideration was also given to options for grant funding awards based on the organisational roles of BNMT and AVBC:

1) Belper North Mill Trust

At the meeting of the Cabinet Member - Strategic Leadership, Culture and Tourism on 25 March 2019, it was agreed that a grant up to a maximum of £75,000 should be provided to BNMT (Minute No. 07/19 refers). This was to commission appropriately experienced and qualified consultants to undertake a feasibility and options appraisal report for a World Heritage Site visitor facility on the North and East Mill site in Belper. The report needed to identify potential funding sources and operational requirements. The award also covered further consultancy support to implement actions from the report. BNMT has agreed to the withdrawal of the £75,000 grant to facilitate the commission by the DVMWHS Partnership, although the Trust will continue to be an active participant in delivery of the work as the operator of the accredited museum housed in the North Mill.

2) Amber Valley Borough Council

A grant was awarded under delegated powers, by the Executive Director – Economy, Transport and Environment, in a report dated 19 August 2019 to Amber Valley Borough Council (AVBC) to a maximum of £40,000 for Feasibility and Options Appraisal report for visitor attraction and development of Strutt's North Mill Museum, Belper, as a visitor attraction for the DVMWHS. This option was to replace BNMT as the lead body to commission the Options Appraisal and Feasibility Study. BNMT was informed of the change. Changes in the County Council's Constitution (27 May 2019) provided Executive Directors greater powers to take decisions that previously would have been taken at either Cabinet or a Cabinet Member meetings. Through active discussion, it has been agreed that AVBC is not best placed to lead on the commissioning of the work but instead will be an active participant in the work to ensure economic and cultural opportunities are explored fully.

Derbyshire County Council will now commission the Options Appraisal and Feasibility Study on behalf of the DVMWHS Partnership (using Protocol 7(B) of the County Council's Financial Regulations). The DVMWHS Partnership Co-ordination Team, which is hosted by Derbyshire County Council, will lead on procurement and management of the delivery of the commission through the Great Place Scheme. The NLHF supports this approach to ensure that the grant for the Great Place Scheme facilitates a suitable future for a key heritage asset in the centre of the DVMWHS. The DVMWHS Partnership would be provided with a study of the potential visitor offer in the Belper North and East Mill. The report will help the DVMWHS Partnership identify potential funding sources and operational requirements to develop long-term investment options. The DVMWHS Partnership will continue to work with BNMT, AVBC and FI to guide further consultancy support to implement actions from the report.

(3) Financial Considerations Derbyshire County Council accepted the NLHF grant offer of £1,285,800 on 9 June 2017. On 13 September 2016, the Cabinet Member - Highways, Transport and Infrastructure approved the use of up to a maximum of £150,000 of the DVMWHS Partnership's reserve, as match funding towards the scheme. The Great Place Scheme is claimed retrospectively on incurred costs. No payments have yet been incurred or claimed for this project. The grant funding is available until 31 December 2020. Grants can be met from the Vital Valley budget of £95,000 for the "Old Spaces, Creative Futures" budget. The commission will have a maximum value of £40,000 and will be procured using Protocol 7B of the Council's Financial Regulations.

(4) Social Value Considerations The Great Place Scheme supports the corporate purpose, vision and values of Derbyshire County Council as laid out in the Council Plan Update 2016-17 (page 3) and those of the DVMWHS as laid out in its Management Plan 2014-2019, (page 7 and pages 90-104).

Other Considerations

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** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. Officer contact details - Adam Lathbury, extension 39791.

(8) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That the Cabinet Member:

8.1 Withdraws a grant up to a maximum of £40,000 to Amber Valley Borough Council.

8.2 Withdraws a grant up to a maximum of £75,000 to Belper North Mill Trust.

8.3 Notes that Derbyshire County Council, on behalf of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Partnership, will commission and manage delivery of the Options Appraisal and Feasibility Study report for visitor attraction in Strutt's North and East Mills, Belper. This project forms part of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Great Place Scheme for which Derbyshire County Council accepted the National Lottery Heritage Fund Grant of £1,285,800.

Mike Ashworth
Executive Director – Economy, Transport and Environment