

PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP, CULTURE AND TOURISM** held on 23 January 2020 at County Hall, Matlock

PRESENT

Cabinet Member – Councillor B Lewis

Also in attendance – Councillor R Flatley

1/20 **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

2/20 **CHANGES TO LIBRARY OPENING HOURS** At its meeting on 20 December 2018, Cabinet gave approval to implement the Derbyshire Public Library Service Strategy. Included in the strategy were proposals to transfer 20 libraries, and the mobile library service, to community management.

While the process for transferring 20 libraries to a community managed model was progressing in nine locations, in eleven locations no formal expressions of interest had been received to date. In approving the Strategy Cabinet agreed that where there were no initial expressions of interest from communities, by October 1 2019, the opening hours in those libraries would be standardised at 18 hours per week. This proposal would be subject to a further period of public consultation. A period of public consultation about proposed changes to opening hours at the following libraries, all of which were open more than 18 hours per week, was undertaken:

1. Brimington
2. Clowne
3. Creswell
4. Duffield
5. Gamesley
6. Killamarsh
7. Somercotes

The consultation sought to obtain responses on two proposed options to change opening hours, together with any other alternative suggestions that consultees wished to make. A total of 144 responses had been received to the consultation, while the proposed reductions to opening hours elicited positive comments about the value of the library service, unsurprisingly a number of

respondents were opposed to the proposed changes. However, there were no alternative proposals put forward for the majority of locations and no alternative suggestions about how savings could be made from the library service budget.

At Brimington Library a number of respondents commented that there was a story time on Thursday morning which was very well attended and also that they did not want the library closed for two consecutive days. In light of these comments, the proposal for Brimington had been amended so that the library would be open on both Tuesday and Thursday mornings, to accommodate the children's story time, and to avoid closure for two consecutive days.

Details of existing opening hours and the proposed changes were attached at Appendix 1 to the report. When implementing the changes to opening hours, staffing levels in libraries would be changed and aligned with the proposed levels of service. Library opening hours would change with effect from 6 April 2020.

The following libraries were currently open for less than 18 hours per week and although no changes were proposed to their opening hours staffing levels had been reviewed so that they more accurately reflected levels of usage.

1. Hadfield
2. Holmewood
3. Whitwell
4. Pinxton

RESOLVED to approve the implementation of the proposed changes to library opening hours, as outlined in appendix one of the report, and the associated staffing levels.

3/20 AWARD OF GRANTS TO EXTERNAL RECIPIENTS – VITAL VALLEY The County Council, on behalf of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (DVMWHS) Partnership, had accepted a grant offer from the Heritage Lottery Fund (now the National Lottery Heritage Fund – NHLF) for a Great Place Scheme in the DVMWHS.

The Great Place Scheme included the Experiment Fund for heritage, arts and cultural organisations within the DVMWHS to experiment with projects that could lead to sustainable income generation in the future. The Experiment Fund had a total grant of £75,000 from the NLHF and £10,000 contribution from applicants.

Details of the applications that had been received were provided and approval was sought to award grants to the external recipients.

RESOLVED to (1) approve the award of grants, from the accepted National Lottery Heritage Fund grant of £1,285,800 for the 'Vital Valley' Great Place Scheme to:

- £20,000 to The Arkwright Society Ltd
- £19,920 to Derby QUAD Ltd
- £19,800 to Derbyshire County Council Countryside Service
- £2,138 to Wirksworth Civic Society
- £490 to Derwent Valley Mills Heritage Site Educational Trust
- £446 to Friends of the Cromford Canal,

totalling £62,794 from the grant of £75,000 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund approved for the Experiment Fund.

(2) monitor and measure the success of the scheme and its' returns and to report back in 6-12 months.

4/20 BUDGET MONITORING 2019-20 – PERIOD 7 (AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2019) The net controllable budget for the Strategic Leadership, Culture and Tourism portfolio was £12.825m. The Revenue Budget Monitoring Statement prepared at period 7 indicated that there was a projected year-end underspend of £0.256m. The significant areas which made up this projection were highlighted and the key variances were as follows:-

Communications – underspend £0.072m

The main underspends related to Your Derbyshire, now having 3 copies per year instead of 4; and IT Hardware and Software – procurement of new contracts using the Derbyshire Framework.

Policy and Research – underspend £0.176m

The main underspends related to staff vacancy and VCS grant to Bolsover CVP (no longer in operation).

Call Derbyshire – underspend £0.134m

The underspend related to high staff turnover due to employees gaining experience and moving on to posts with the Council for promotional purposes.

Tourism and Twinning – underspend £0.057m

The underspend was due to a vacancy which had not been filled. The full year effect would eliminate this underspend in future years.

Heritage – overspend £0.063m

The overspend was due mainly to the Environmental Studies Service which had been allocated a budget saving of £0.120m in 2018-19 that had not yet been fully achieved.

Budget reductions totalling £0.760m had been allocated for the year. It was forecast that £0.760m of savings will have been achieved by the year-end. There were £0.120m of savings identified in the previous year for the Environmental Studies Service of which £0.034m had been achieved. Details of the performance against the target were presented.

The portfolio had received the following additional budget allocations in 2019-20:

- (i) Thriving Communities £0.368m (on going)
Funding to concentrate on three priorities in respect of rolling out the Council Plan commitment across Derbyshire: radically reshaping demand, unlocking community potential and creating an alliance for work and skills. This was to replace one off funding from reserves and was due to be spent in year.
- (ii) Enterprising Council £0.094m (on going)
Support for this programme of transformational change, which would affect the whole organisation and was a Council Plan commitment. It was expected that £0.094m would be spent in year.
- (iii) Community Managed Libraries £0.742 (one off)
Funding for the Council Plan commitment to introduce community managed libraries over the next 5 years.

Earmarked reserves totalling £3.206m were currently held to support future expenditure and details of these reserves were presented.

RESOLVED to note the report.

5/20 **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC** **RESOLVED** to exclude the public from the meeting during the consideration of the remaining items on the agenda to avoid the disclosure of exempt or confidential information

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS CONDUCTED AFTER THE PUBLIC WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING

1. To consider the exempt report of the Executive Director Economy, Transport and Environment on a request for additional funding for Creswell Heritage Trust (contains information relating to the financial or

business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information))