

## Minute Extract

### 81/10 Darley Abbey Regeneration Strategy

The Council Cabinet considered a report on Darley Abbey Regeneration Strategy. The report highlighted the completion of a comprehensive study into the regeneration potential of the Darley Abbey Mills, Darley Abbey Stables and northern part of Darley Park. The study had resulted in the production of a Darley Abbey Regeneration Strategy. The report sought approval to the Strategy (a copy of which has been placed in the Political Group Rooms) alongside results of the most recent consultation exercise undertaken in May.

#### **Options Considered**

1. Given the international importance of the buildings and their worsening position, doing nothing was not considered a realistic option for the Council. To do nothing at this stage could result in the deterioration of some extremely valuable buildings in a very significant Conservation Area. There was also the risk at some point in the future that the Council might be forced to step in, at considerable cost to itself, to prevent terminal decay to one of more of the most sensitive listed buildings.
2. If resources were not made available via the Regeneration Fund or through the creation of a part-time Project Manager post, it might still be possible to establish a Partnership with the Mill owners. However, it was considered that the continuation of joint working would become entirely dependent upon the Council helping to secure external funds, without which very slow progress would almost certainly result. Securing external funding would be extremely problematic without the Council offering match funding.

#### **Decision**

1. To approve the Darley Abbey Regeneration Strategy and adopt this document as the basis for the Council's future interventions in this area.
2. To approve the formation of a Darley Abbey Mills Partnership, chaired by the Leader of the Council, to jointly drive forward the regeneration of the Mills complex.
3. To note that a bid for £900,000 capital from the Council's Regeneration Fund had been made, £300k towards the establishment of a Heritage Grants Fund, and £600k towards essential repairs to the Council-owned Stable Block.

4. Officers to report back to a future Cabinet Meeting on the detailed operation of the proposed Grant Fund.
5. To pursue provision within the Council's emerging Local Development Framework (LDF) of a broader range of potential land uses at the Mills complex and to authorise the preparation of a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for the Mills complex.
6. To instruct officers to bring a subsequent report to Members recommending precise arrangements for the refurbishment and commercial occupation of the Stable Block.

## **Reasons**

1. To give the Regeneration Strategy formal status that demonstrated the Council's commitment to overseeing its delivery, and thus to the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.
2. To ensure that urgent improvement works at the main Mill buildings and the Stable Block were able to commence as soon as possible.
3. To secure the early use of a small part of the Regeneration Fund to start the delivery of this strategy.