

CULTURE, LEISURE AND TOURISM PORTFOLIO

DECISION SCHEDULE



Friday 26th September 2008

at 10.00 am

**in Committee Room B,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

Councillor Tumilty, Cabinet Member responsible for Culture, Leisure and Tourism will consider the following items.

1. KEY DECISIONS

No items

2. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

- 2.1 Proposed Changes to Library Homework Helper Posts – *Director of Adult and Community Services*
- 2.2 'Hartlepool Maritime Festival' – 'Hartlepool Dockfest 09' – *Director of Adult and Community Services*

3. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

No items

4. REPORTS FROM OVERVIEW OF SCRUTINY FORUMS

No items

CULTURE, LEISURE AND TOURISM PORTFOLIO

Report to Portfolio Holder

26 September 2008



Report of: Director of Adult and Community Services

Subject: PROPOSED CHANGES TO LIBRARY
HOMEWORK HELPER POSTS

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To describe some current difficulties experienced in delivering homework support services with the current staffing library structure and to seek Portfolio Holder approval to change the structure and operation of the post of Homework Helper in the Library Service

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report provides background information, describes current problems experienced within the staffing arrangements and proposes some changes to address the problems and improve overall services

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

The Portfolio Holder has responsibility for library services

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non-key

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Culture Leisure and Tourism Portfolio – 26 September 2008

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

To approve the proposed changes to the post of Homework Helper and for these changes to be included in a re-structure of library staffing.

Report of: Director of Adult and Community Services

Subject: PROPOSED CHANGES TO LIBRARY
HOMEWORK HELPER POSTS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To describe some current difficulties experienced in delivering homework support services with the current staffing structure and to seek Portfolio Holder approval to change the structure and operation of the post of Homework Helper in the Library Service

2. BACKGROUND

The post of Homework Helper was initially piloted in libraries through a three year New Opportunities Fund Lottery programme. Following the success of the pilot programme, Council approved the provision of mainstream funding to employ homework helpers in all libraries in 2004. Typically a homework helper is employed 10 hours per week to deliver 5 x 2 hour sessions, term time only. Over the last two years it has proved difficult recruiting and retaining staff in these posts. This has frequently resulted in absence of the service for a sustained period and has also produced staffing budget underspends. Having looked into the problem, the Library believes the reason is that working 5 x 2 hour sessions is not an attractive employment option.

3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 The library would like to improve organisation of these posts to provide a more reliable service and to improve staff retention. The total homework helper staff hours are equivalent to approximately 2 FTE posts (term time only). The library believes that a staff structure of fewer staff employed for longer hours would provide a more stable service.
- 3.2 There would necessarily be some changes to the way homework helper staff delivered the job. There would also be more time for work planning and more opportunity for staff development and training and better integration of homework services with the overall provision of young people's services in Libraries.

- 3.2 It is also proposed that the posts should become all year, and not just term-time. Although homework is a school term activity, by far the greatest demand on library services by young people is in the school holidays and the skills and experience of homework helpers who build strong relationships with children should be utilised at these times. The library will be undertaking staffing a staffing re-structure in financial year 2008/9 and wishes to integrate changes to the employment structure for Homework Helpers within this.

4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The changes to the homework helper posts would be cost neutral and are not part of financial efficiency planning

5. STAFFING CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 Of the 8 homework helper posts, 6 are unfilled at this time. This creates an opportunity to make the changes with a minimum of staff disruption. Of the 2 posts currently held. The library would retain the current post holders within their current contracts and agreed conditions, but would review the position as and when the posts become vacant.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The proposal will lead to better delivery of a service that is frequently disrupted due to staff shortages due to the current structure. The proposal will allow for better staff retention, better trained staff and better integration of homework support with overall library services to young people

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Portfolio Holder is requested to

- i) Agree to the changes proposed for the organisation of the Homework Helper posts.

Contact Officer: Graham Jarritt, Borough Librarian

Background Papers

None

CULTURE, LEISURE AND TOURISM PORTFOLIO
REPORT TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER
26 September 2008



Report of: Director of Adult and Community Services

Subject: 'HARTLEPOOL MARITIME FESTIVAL' –
'HARTLEPOOL DOCKFEST 09'

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek approval for an event in July 2009 – as part of the run up to The Tall Ships Races 2010 be called 'Hartlepool Dockfest 09'.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

Details of the reasoning supporting this request, as well as outline ideas of the proposed event are detailed in the report.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER

Strategic events are within the remit of the Portfolio Holder.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non key.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Culture, Leisure and Tourism Portfolio Meeting 26 September 2008.

6. DECISION REQUIRED

The Portfolio Holder is requested to approve the use of the concept 'Hartlepool Dockfest '09'.

Report of: Director, Adult and Community Services

Subject: 'HARTLEPOOL MARITIME FESTIVAL' –
'HARTLEPOOL DOCKFEST 09'

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek approval for an event in July 2009 – as part of the run up to The Tall Ships Races 2010 be called 'Hartlepool Dockfest 09'.

2. BACKGROUND

The Hartlepool Maritime Festival [HMF] has run as a bi-annual event since 2000. HMF 2008 was thus the fifth Maritime Festival, and took place over the weekend of 4th-6th July 2008 using the HME car park, Jacksons Landing, the land behind Mecca Bingo and Navigation Point.

This recent event was successful, however, the combination of number of innovations (some of which were being tested in advance of The Tall Ships Races 2010) and the indement weather conditions served to provide a number of key learning points.

These were as follows.

- It would seem prudent for any future events of this sort to be somehow 'weatherproofed'.
- It should maintain the HMF offer of a fun set of things to do for all the family, and not be restricted to any age, or socio-economic, group.
- It seems desirable to honour earlier pronouncements to run a chain of events building up to the climax of The Tall Ships Races 2010, which therefore implies an event kind in the Summer of 2009.
- Any such event run in Summer 2009 would need: to be discernibly different from the HMF concept; be clearly linked to The Tall Ships Races; and build upon existing infrastructure and conceptual resources.

3. DETAILS OF PROPOSED SCHEME

3.1 Officers working on the development of the required new concept here are proposing an idea to be called 'Hartlepool DockFest 09'. [HDF 09]

3.2 HDF 09 would take place on the weekend of Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th July 2009 in the Maritime Experience car park and would not be extended to any other time or location other than the retention of the fairground at Jackson Landing provided the site remains available.

- 3.3 The central and core part of the event would be a major performance tent, marquee or Big Top. This would be used to present presentations such as community arts performances and a Sunday afternoon easy-listening event. However its prime use would be for the Saturday evening performance to be given by a 'big name', recognisable popular music artist or act, and a comparably 'big' comedian on the Sunday evening. Because access to this performance tent can be controlled, this means that almost everything which happens inside it can be regulated by issuing and checking tickets. Furthermore if charitable funding is identified and acquired such tickets can be issued for free. Alternatively – should it seem desirable or necessary - paid admission could be used.
- 3.4 Surrounding the main performance space would be a 'village' of smaller marquees. This would thus provide covered sites for additional attractions, trade stands and catering concessions. This would thus ensure that the majority of the event took place in weather proofed circumstances. The location will also continue to use the existing visitor attraction infrastructure to maximum effect.
- 3.5 The outdoor thoroughfares between the tents would be used for public circulation and for street theatre.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 As will have been noted above, this plan aims to learn from the experiences of the most recent Maritime Festival, and to hold the capability to charge for public admission. A budget is therefore under development underpinned by the Maritime Festival annual budget.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The portfolio holder is requested to approve the use of the concept 'Hartlepool Dockfest '09'.

CONTACT OFFICERS: Stephen Cashman, Strategic Arts Manager
Michelle Daurat, Tall Ships Project Manager