

CULTURE, LEISURE AND TOURISM PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

26 September 2008

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Victor Tumilty (Culture, Leisure and Tourism Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Nicola Bailey, Director of Adult and Community Services
John Mennear, Assistant Director (Community Services)
Alan Dobby, Assistant Director (Support Services)
Graham Jarritt, Borough Librarian
Stephen Cashman, Strategic Arts Manager
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

9. Proposed Changes to Library Homework Helper Posts *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non key.

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.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The post of Homework Helper was initially piloted in libraries through a three year New Opportunities Fund Lottery programme. Following the pilot 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, term time only, however over the last two years it has proved difficult recruiting and retaining staff in these posts as it is not felt to be an attractive employment option.

Therefore changes to the organisation of the posts were suggested in order to provide a more reliable service and improve staff retention. The total staff hours were equivalent to two full-time posts (term time only) and it was believed that fewer staff employed for longer hours would result in a

more stable service. It was also proposed that the posts should not be restricted to term time only as it was recognised that the greatest demand on library services by young people was during the school holidays.

The changes would be cost neutral and not part of financial efficiency planning. Only two of the eight homework helper posts were currently filled so these would be retained within their current contract agreements. The posts would be reviewed as and when they became vacant.

In response to queries from the Portfolio Holder the Borough Librarian indicated that the post holders would be responsible for delivering services to all libraries across the town. It was hoped that the extra time spent within the library would improve the service as the Homework Helpers would be able to work on preparation throughout the day. The Portfolio Holder then indicated he would be happy to agree the changes, asking that his thanks be passed on to the existing staff for all their hard work.

Decision

That the changes proposed for the organisation of the Homework Helper posts be agreed.

10. 'Hartlepool Maritime Festival' – 'Hartlepool Dockfest 09' (Director of Adult and Community Services)

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To seek approval for an event in July 2009 as part of the run up to the Tall Ships Races 2010 to be called 'Hartlepool Dockfest 90'.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Hartlepool Maritime Festival (HMF) has run as a bi-annual event since 2000. HMF 2008 took place over the first weekend in July and while it was successful the combination of a number of innovations and the inclement weather conditions served to provide a number of key learning points, namely that future events of this sort should be 'weatherproofed' and that there should be no restrictions on age or socio-economic group. Previously plans to run a chain of events building up to the climax of the Tall Ships Races 2010 had been announced implying an event in the summer of 2009. Any such event would need to be discernibly different from the HMF concept, clearly linked to the Tall Ships Races and build upon existing infrastructure and conceptual resources.

'Hartlepool Dockfest' (HDF) 09 was proposed for the first weekend in July

2009 in the Maritime Experience car park. The central part of the event would be a major performance tent, marquee or Big Top. Presentations such as community arts performances and easy-listening events would take place however its prime use would be for a Saturday evening performance by a recognisable popular music artist or act and a Sunday evening performance by a recognisable popular comedian. Surrounding the main performance space would be a 'village of smaller marquees'.

Because access to the performance tent could be controlled attendance could be regulated by issuing and checking tickets. These could be issued free of charge, depending on the availability of charitable funding, or paid admission could be used. The Strategic Arts Manager indicated that he would prefer not to have to charge for tickets, however should this be necessary procedures were already in place to do so through the Town Hall ticketing system.

The Portfolio Holder advised that these proposals had met with great support during the Tall Ships Board meeting immediately prior to this Portfolio meeting. He was happy to approve the proposed concept which he felt could put Hartlepool on the map.

Decision

That the use of the concept 'Hartlepool Dockfest 09' be approved.

The meeting concluded at 10.25 am.

PETER DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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