

Extract of Executive Board Minutes Relevant to the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 27 FEBRUARY 2014

EXB159 REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES – COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities, on a review of fees and charges within the Community and Environment Services for 2014/15.

The Board was advised that the review of fees and charges within the Communities Directorate had been carried out as part of the budget preparations for 2014/15. It was reported that the existing fees and charges would be increased generally in line with inflation. However, some, such as Cemeteries and Crematoria had been increased by more to ensure full cost recovery. It was noted that others had been increased to reflect the charges in other local authority areas.

RESOLVED: That the proposed fees and charges as set out in Appendix 1 attached to the report be approved for 2014/15.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 13 MARCH 2014

EXB165 IMPLEMENTING HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL'S APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which set out the options to resource a corporate Apprenticeship Scheme.

The Board was advised that Halton Borough Council's People's Plan reinforced the need for the Council to continue to attract, develop and retain excellent people. The benefits of apprenticeships, previously reported to the Board, promoted a more balanced workforce, injected freshness and new ideas into the organisation. In addition, they contributed to the Council's wider employment and regeneration policies.

The report set out three funding options for Members' consideration. It was reported that Option 3 – to explore the use of European funding to develop a Borough-wide apprenticeship scheme - was the preferred option of the

Council's Organisational Development Group.

It was further noted that a cascade briefing, scheduled for May 2014, would brief managers on apprenticeships so as to cascade the benefits of an Apprenticeships Scheme across the whole organisation. This would set out the process for the identification, appointment, support and monitoring of apprenticeships.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the options to fund apprenticeships within the Council, as set out in section 3.4 of the report, be noted;
- 2) Option 3 be agreed as the preferred option;
- 3) the target of 10 additional apprentices to be established during the next financial year, be approved; and
- 4) a cascade briefing be approved to promote, and provide information on apprenticeships.

EXB166 VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUNDING – GRANT ALLOCATION 2014/15

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities, on the Voluntary Sector Grant Funding Awards for 2014/15.

The Board was advised that voluntary sector organisations had been invited to submit applications for funding in 2014/15. Applications were assessed and recommendations agreed by a Panel consisting of the Executive Board Portfolio holder with responsibility for the Voluntary Sector and Officers from the Communities Directorate.

The report contained details of the recommended annual allocation for the financial year 2014/15. It was noted that a review of Voluntary Sector funding would need to be undertaken as part of the budgetary setting process for 2015/16.

RESOLVED: That the grant allocations, as outlined in the report, be approved.

EXB167 NORTON PRIORY HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND BID

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities, which sought approval for the provision of financial support for the Norton Priory Museum Trust (the Trust).

The Board was advised that the Trust was granted a stage 1 pass from the Heritage Lottery fund (HLF) in 2013, for its project "Monastery to Museum

900". The £5m scheme would conserve the 12th century undercroft and redevelop the museum facilities.

It was noted that a stage 2 bid for £3.67m would be submitted by 31 March 2014 to HLF. However, match funding of £690,392 was required, but may not be in place until after the July 2014 deadline, which, it was reported, may put the project at risk.

The Board was further advised that HLF required confirmation that the Council would underwrite the stage 2 match funding, in the event that all of the match funding was not secured by the Trust, within the timeframe.

RESOLVED: That, if the Trust is unable to raise all the match funding required, the Board agree to underwrite the Norton Priory Museum Trust's HLF bid, by providing a loan of up to £300,000 plus interest, to be repaid over a period of up to three years, commencing 2015.