

REPORT TO: Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board

REPORT OF: Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources

DATE: 15th June 2021

PORTFOLIO: Community Safety

SUBJECT: Heartstone Odyssey Book Festival

WARDS: All

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform Board Members of the Heartstone Odyssey Book Festival and to seek their approval for Halton's participation in the project.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 1. Board Members are asked to note the report's contents and agree Halton's participation in the project.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Heartstone is seeking to work with local authorities across the North West region beyond Lancashire to participate in a new Book Festival taking shape in November this year. They are currently engaging with all the local authorities in the Liverpool City Region.

Attached as appendix 1 is a detailed briefing about the project including a financial breakdown.

Currently the requested match is £2,200 and it has been agreed, by the Safer Halton Partnership (SHP) to use monies from years 2-5 of the Home Office sponsored resettled refugee pot, and the SHP is asking the PPB to support this decision.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS and RISK ANALYSIS

4.1 There are no identified financial or risk implications for the Council. The Home Office is clear that whilst in year 1 of the refugees' journey there are

required outcomes, with relevant monitoring arrangements in place: in years 2-5 they are more relaxed about how the funds are spent as long as it helps to support the continuing integration journey of the refugees.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 Children and Young People in Halton

This project is about working with young people to eliminate hate and negative attitudes towards those who may be different. This will work towards a safer and more cohesive community for all of Halton's residents.

5.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None Identified

5.3 A Healthy Halton

None Identified

5.4 A Safer Halton

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5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None Identified

6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

6.1 This project will help the Council meet its statutory requirements under the Public Sector Equality Duty by helping to eliminate discrimination, victimisation and harassment, and foster positive relationships across those with a protected characteristic and those without.