



PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND SPORT

TOPIC – APPROVAL FOR SPENDING ON A COMMISSION SUPPORTING DELIVERY OF THE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE CHANGE PLAN

PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 4, Section 22 of the Council's Constitution provides for a decision to be made by an individual member of Cabinet.

In accordance with the Procedure Rules, the Corporate Director (Governance), the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance are consulted together with Chairman and Vice Chairman of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any other relevant overview and scrutiny committee. In addition, all Members are notified.

If five or more Members from those informed so request, the Leader may require the matter to be referred to Cabinet for determination.

Contact Officers:

Case Officer: Eloise Appleby – eappleby@winchester.gov.uk

Committee Administrator: Nancy Graham - ngraham@winchester.gov.uk, Tel: 01962 848 235

SUMMARY

This Decision Notice seeks approval for the allocation of £15,000 from the Arts Development Budget to fund the commissioning of an arts advisory and support service.

Following the voluntary redundancy of the Council's Arts Development Officer (ADO) in May 2011, this commission is designed to test the merits of an externally provided service. It would not seek to replace on a like-for-like basis the work of the ADO, but to maintain essential 'front line' support for arts businesses and organisations as well as individual practitioners.

The commissioned service will *not* provide for other aspects of the ADO's role, which may be better suited to different forms of delivery. These include:

- developing the strategy for public art contributions for Silver Hill and West of Waterlooville;

- one-off community arts projects;
- creative industry development initiatives.

The service would take effect from October 2011, with a contract to the end of June 2012. Towards the end of this period it would be reviewed and Members will be asked to give their preference for the longer term provision of the arts advisory service based on the findings of this review.

This commission is in line with the corporate outcome of being an Efficient and Effective Council, and supports the Change Plan theme of 'Collaborative Solutions for Service Delivery'. This seeks to ensure that "Council services are efficient, well run and provided by a range of organisations, including other local authorities, the private sector, the voluntary and community sector as well as the Council itself."

As part of the Council's commitment to working with other districts, an agreement has been reached with Havant Borough Council that the service will be jointly commissioned by the two Councils. Given Havant's much smaller arts community, the Borough is contributing £5,000 during the current financial year to support the service.

DECISION

- a) That £20,000 is allocated for the commission of an effective arts advisory and support service in partnership with Havant Borough Council, from the period October 2011 to 30 June 2012; £17,000 in 2011/12 and £3,000 in 2012/13.
- b) That a review be undertaken in the first quarter of the 2012/13 calendar year and options brought back to Members for consideration in determining the future operation of this service.
- c) That the Assistant Director (Economic Prosperity) be authorised to make the necessary arrangements and to confirm a contribution of £5,000 towards the commission from Havant Borough Council.

REASON FOR THE DECISION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Although the full budget for the post of Arts Development Officer was given up in savings in the budget cycle for 2011/12, it was always known that the demand for this service would continue because of the size and importance of the District's arts community. This includes high-value creative businesses and community arts groups alike. The redundancy presented an interesting opportunity to test the commissioning of a service which had traditionally been provided direct by the Council but which could potentially be provided by other organisations or individuals with the right expertise. Response to the draft specification has already proved positive from potential bidders.

As such, it was proposed as a possible early commission in the Cabinet paper CAB2153 - '[Introducing a Commissioning Approach](#)' which was approved in April 2011 (para 2.4b refers). Whilst a 1 Team secondment has been considered by officers, it has been rejected as an option for this reason.

Consideration has also been given to not replacing this function at all, but there is a continuing professional workload implication for the Economy and Arts Team which cannot be absorbed by the team either in terms of time or skills. It is already impacting on the team's other commitments for the year.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The commission is for £20,000 which will provide a basic arts advisory service for arts organisations and practitioners across the Winchester and Havant Districts. This will be taken from the arts development budget, and be split to fund £12,000 from this financial year with a further £3,000 in 2012/13. There will also be a contribution of £5,000 from Havant Borough Council, payable in 2011/12.

Officers have been given positive encouragement for this joint commissioning approach by Arts Council England, South East. ACE,SE officers have indicated that they would be more favourably disposed to making project-based grants to an cross-boundary, independent service of this kind, so increasing the impact and effectiveness of the service.

It should be noted that this funding would normally have been used for arts projects and activities. Following the disestablishment of the post of Arts Development Officer as part of the 2011/12 budgeting cycle, however, there is less scope for spending on such activities. However, the commitment is only for a nine month period and a future decision about the funding and provision of the service will enable Members to review the balance of funding between service provision and activities.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN ON THE DECISION

City Council colleagues, key arts organisations in the Winchester District, The University of Winchester, Arts Council England, South East, Hampshire County Council

FURTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

N/A

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY THE DECISION MAKER OR A MEMBER OR OFFICER CONSULTED

N/A

DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

N/A

Approved by: (signature)

Date of Decision: 07.09.11

Councillor Stallard – Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Sport