

COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Special Council Meeting 2008 18th September 2008

Report of Head of Democratic Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek Members approval of arrangements being made for Special Council 2008.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee approve the arrangements being made for the Special Council meeting on 22nd October 2008.

1.0 Introduction

At the last meeting of Council Business Committee on 26th June, it was agreed that the Head of Democratic Services would make appropriate arrangements for the Special Council meeting being held on 22nd October.

The Committee agreed the theme of the Special Council would be the Children and Young People Engagement Strategy.

It was agreed that a progress report would be submitted to the September meeting of the Council Business Committee.

2.0 Update

2.1 Participants

Letters have been sent to 21 schools, colleges, and residential schools in the district asking if students will be able to access the special council meeting during term time. To date there have been 11 positive responses from the following:

- Morecambe High School
- Lancaster Girls Grammar School
- Wennington Hall
- Heysham High School
- Our Ladys High School
- Skerton Community High School
- Lancaster & Morecambe College
- Ridgway Park
- Beaumont College x 2 groups

- Loyne School
- Lancaster Royal Grammar School

Before the end of term the Children & Young People Manager went into Skerton and Heysham High Schools to talk with staff and young people about the event. More information will be sent out to the 11 schools at the beginning of this new term. This will include the numbers of young people from each school/college who will be able to attend, a draft programme open for comment and amendment from the young people, an offer for the C&YP Manager to meet with school councils/students/staff before the event.

Six district organisations have also been approached inviting young people who are members of their participation groups to take part in the event. The organisations are:

- Lancashire County Council – Young People's Service
- Lancashire County Council – Children Looked After
- Police
- YMCA
- Signposts
- Marsh Community Centre

It is envisaged that there will be either 2 or 3 participants from each school/college/group, a total of approximately 50 young people aged approximately 15.

2.2 Format

The day will be based on the contents of the Lancashire Children and Young People's Charter which was adopted by the Council in January 2006. The Charter contains 13 points to enable engagement with children and young people to be effective and meaningful.

The event will take place in the Banqueting Suite at Lancaster Town Hall, not the Platform as previously agreed as the venue had a booking that day.

To begin the day, 'getting to know you' sessions will be held as only 2/3 young people from each school will be attending. The young people will then be split into small groups and undertake a skills audit to assess the strengths of the group. Each Group will then be given 2 or 3 of the themes of the Charter to consider and identify how each theme could be implemented locally. The groups will then devise a method of how to communicate with Members in the afternoon session.

It is envisaged that Members will arrive at 3.00 pm when they will be split into groups which will be facilitated by the young people. Members will consider the themes included in the Charter and how these relate specifically to Lancaster.

This will conclude with a formal resolution from Council to take forward the work undertaken to form the Council's Children and Young People Engagement Strategy.

3.0 Details of Consultation

The proposal is being developed in consultation with the Council's Children and Young Peoples Manager.

4.0 Conclusion

Members are requested to approve the arrangements being made for the Special Council meeting on 22nd October 2008.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

None arising from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All financial expenditure for the event will be contained within existing budgets. This will be met for the most part from the Democratic Representation budgets available for the cost of meetings, although some funding is also available in the Corporate Strategy's Children and Young People budget. Since the event will be held in Lancaster Town Hall this year the cost of the room will be met through the internal recharges system. Costs of providing suitable conference style facilities and refreshments for the young people during the day followed by the cost of Council meeting refreshments will be contained within the available budget of £500. Any additional expenditure will be met from the budget available for promoting the Strategy.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The S151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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