

# COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

## Local Councillor Shadowing Scheme 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2009

### Report of Head of Democratic Services

#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Members of a request from 'The Youth of Today' to participate in the Local Councillor Shadowing Programme.

**This report is public**

#### RECOMMENDATION

**That Council Business Committee consider whether the Council should take part in 'the Youth of Today' Local Councillor Shadowing Programme in Autumn of this year.**

#### Report

(1) Background

A request has been received from 'The Youth of Today' which is a consortium of leading youth organisations including the British Youth Council. The consortium is working together to increase the quality, quantity and diversity of opportunities for young people as leaders of change in their communities.

The initiative is funded by the Department of Children, Schools and Families along with the Department for Communities and Local Government and will launch a range of programmes over the next 2 years including the Local Councillor Shadowing Scheme.

(2) Details

A young person will be linked with a Councillor for 25 hours worth of shadowing activities which can take place in a period of between 1 and 6 weeks. This Councillor will need to undergo a CRB check.

'The Youth of Today' will provide a menu of activities which will be agreed with the two parties.

To ensure the programme is as sustainable as possible, participants should be encouraged to pursue voluntary work in their local community and remain involved in local democracy if they are keen to.

Participating councils will be paid a £120 bursary at the end of the programme to cover food and travel expenses incurred by the young person together with any costs incurred by the council.

Attached at Appendix A is the invitation letter which contains full details of the scheme.

Members are requested to consider whether or not the Council should take part in the Local Councillor Shadowing Scheme.

**CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

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

None arising from this report.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None arising directly from this report. Any expenses, including CRB check and food and travel expenses would be covered by the bursary of £120 which will be paid at the end of the scheme.

**SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no comments.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

**MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

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

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Letter attached at Appendix A

**Contact Officer:** Jenny Kay

**Telephone:** 01524 582065

**E-mail:** jkay@lancaster.gov.uk

**Ref:**