

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET
THURSDAY 29th JUNE 2006

PROPOSED SECONDMENT TO BRITISH WATERWAYS

COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:	Greater Learning and Participation
CORPORATE PLAN THEME:	Enhancing Cultural Life
CORPORATE PLAN KEY PRIORITY:	Community Development
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Nathan Desmond
HEAD OF SERVICE:	Head of Cultural, Leisure & Commercial Services
CONTACT OFFICER:	Kay Higman – 01562 732902
APPENDICES:	None
AN OPEN ITEM	

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To request the Cabinet to approve a 2 day per week secondment of the Council's Assistant Development Officer to British Waterways for a period of 2 years, and approval to backfill this post with money from British Waterways.

2.0 Recommendations

The Cabinet is asked to DECIDE:-

- 2.1 To approve a 2 day per week secondment of the Council's Assistant Development Officer to British Waterways for a period of 2 years.
- 2.2 To approve a temporary 2 year appointment for 2 days per week to backfill this post funded by money from British Waterways

3.0 Background

- 3.1 British Waterways has been successful in applying for lottery funding from the Arts Council England, West Midlands.
- 3.2 This application complements the successful application to regenerate Stourport Basins through Heritage Lottery Fund money.
- 3.3 The arts team from British Waterways has been very impressed with the Council's Assistant Development Officer in previous public art partnership working and has specifically requested her to work on this arts project.

4.0 British Waterways Arts Project

- 4.1 British Waterways has requested the Council's Assistant Development Officer for 2 days per week for 2 years.
- 4.2 The Assistant Development Officer's role will be to co-ordinate/manage 11 arts commissions which British Waterways are proposing for the Basins.

4.3 The following are the 11 commissions:

Site Illumination Commissions

Commission 1 – SCADA* Information

(*SCADA is a computer system which records the flow of water in and out of the basins)

Light and projection work across the site will be created through interpretation of data from SCADA.

Commission 2 – Sound Installation

A site specific sound installation capturing the sounds on the island area of the basin and the possibility of transferring them to the Town Centre.

Events and Site Animation

Commission 3 – Performance 1

This commission is to undertake research and interpretation of the site history, communities and stories to be presented as a performance event within the Canal Basin.

Commission 4 – Basin Stories Website

This commission is to capture stories about and of the people of the Canal Basin and Stourport. A website will be established to facilitate the storytelling for 2 years.

Commission 5 – Drawing Water (Big Draw Event)

This commission is to establish drawing events in and around the Canal Basin as part of the Big Draw, a national event which has been developed over the past five years by the Campaign of Drawing. It is anticipated that this commission will create a new annual event within the Basin to involve local artists, schools visitors and site users.

Commission 6 – Diary Images

This commission is to establish a set of images for projection around the site. The images will be created through consultation with BW staff and users of the site.

Commission 7 – Artists Impressions

This commission is to provide an artist with the canal basins as a blank canvas to create a visual diary. These images will be used for projection and exhibition displays around the site.

Site Revealing

Commission 8 – Tontine Gardens

This commission is to develop a fuller understanding of the site history and assist the design team and future design options for the Tontine Gardens.

Commission 9 – Engine Lane Gateway

This commission will establish a key gateway and crossing point at Engine Lane. This commission will invite artists to create a gateway piece that utilises and exposes the flow of water under the lane, establishing a threshold to the site.

Off-Site Commissions

Commission 10 – Stourport Ring

This commission is for a local jeweller to design and make a unique ring celebrating the singular status of Stourport and the Canal Basins.

Commission 11 – Wedgewood AIR Severn River Pillar Rings

This commission is for a set of unique ceramic rings for placement on the vertical pillars on the Severn River edge pontoon.

- 4.4 The British Waterways post will be based from the British Waterways offices in Stourport.
- 4.5 The role will also include some regard as to the public art as part of Stourport Pride and proposed Tesco development.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 British Waterways has agreed to pay the Council £10,000 p.a. to cover the costs of backfilling the 2 day per week for 2 years temporary post.
- 5.2 Therefore, the effect on the budget is neutral.
- 5.3 British Waterways has agreed to pay the Council monthly in advance as the Assistant Development Officer's contract is with the Council.
- 5.4 The temporary post will be advertised internally initially.

6.0 Legal and Policy Implications

- 6.1 A contract would be drawn up between British Waterways and the Council.
- 6.2 British Waterways has agreed to flexibility with regard to the secondment. Therefore, during certain periods e.g. Arts Festival, the Assistant Development Officer will work 5 days per week for the Council.

7.0 Risk Management

- 7.1 There are no risk management issues.

8.0 Consultees

Head of Financial Services
Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Head of Human Resources

9.0 Background Papers

Nil.