

REPORT TO: Corporate Services Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 6th January 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise

PORTFOLIO: Resources

SUBJECT: External Funding Team Update

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To provide an overview of the remit of the External Funding Team and external funding secured.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That Members note the content of the report and feed any relevant projects through to the Team.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Remit of the Team

The remit of the Team is to maximise external funding opportunities into the Borough for projects that meet Halton's strategic priorities.

The Team sits with the Investment and Development Services Division in the Economy, Enterprise and Property Department.

The Team has a Council-wide remit and also a role to play in supporting partners in the voluntary/community and private sectors where appropriate.

Key tasks include:

- Dissemination of funding sources to key stakeholders, including Council colleagues, and targeted audiences (we produce 9 themed funding bulletins every month which go out to target audiences as well as a monthly Funding Bulletin for Council colleagues containing current funding streams available to local authorities. Bulletin themes are: arts, community, environment/heritage, European, faith, health, schools, sport, youth)
- Support in drafting and proofing bids of > £50,000 (HBC's Community Development Team deals with requests for funding <£50,000); and liaison with funding bodies
- Organising training in bid-writing and 'meet the funder' sessions

- Attending key forums to lobby for funding for the Borough, raise Halton's profile with funders and ensure funding bodies are up to speed on the key challenges faced by communities in the Borough.

Some of the key funding streams the Team advises on include: Government funding streams, European funding, Lottery funding, Trust funding and Landfill Communities Fund streams.

We work closely with colleagues in other directorates and departments, as well as external partners to ensure partnership bids are developed where appropriate, that the best and highest quality bids are submitted and to look at the timing of bids so that we are not in direct competition with other bids from Halton.

3.2 Roles within the Team

There are five full-time posts within the Team:
 Lead Funding Officer – Steph Davies (permanent)
 Funding Officer - Agnes Smith (permanent)
 Funding and Monitoring Officer – Sara Wilson (permanent)
 Funding Development Officer (European) – Louise Vaudrey (fixed term)
 Funding Support Officer - Jonathan Patten (permanent)

3.3 Funding Statistics

The Team records all funding bids submitted, the outcome of these bids, and the level of funding secured. We also record further down the line the impact of the funding on the service or project that received the funding.

Funding Secured 2013-14 = £2,092,624.
 Funding Secured to date (2014-15) = £812,352

Attached with this Report is an Impact Report for 2013-14 which identifies all funding secured, key pipeline projects etc;

Also included as a separate document is the Team's current pipeline project list. The spreadsheet identifies all the projects we are currently supporting – we currently have 48 live projects as well as ten projects which have been funded and where we are taking an active role in monitoring. This includes the multi-million pound development at Sci-Tech Daresbury.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The funding environment remains highly competitive, but contrary to some of the myths that circulate around grant funding, there is funding out there. The role of the team is to ensure that funding

streams are not pursued simply because they are there, but that a strategic approach is maintained ensuring the most appropriate bids are submitted which are of the highest quality and have the most chance of success.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The team supports the securing of funding from sources additional to the Council's core funding in support of meeting the Council's priorities.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

Each funding enquiry received needs to demonstrate how the project requiring funding meets at least one of the Council's Priorities in order for us to provide support. The work of the Team therefore helps indirectly to support all of the Council's Priorities listed below. See Internal Enquiry Form attached with the Report.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 There are no risks directly associated with the content of the Report, however, a risk in relation to not securing external funding or missing key funding opportunities is outlined in the Corporate Risk Register managed by Tony Dean. The Team liaises with Tony on an annual basis to demonstrate how these risks are mitigated.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 *Any Equality and Diversity implications arising as a result of the proposed action should be included*

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**