Report of the Service Director
Asset Management and Culture

Decision to be taken after:
17 June 2010

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

SPORT, LEISURE AND CULTURE
CABINET MEMBER

TRAINEE AQUATIC ASSISTANTS

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

1.1 To approve an offer from the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) to host four Trainee Aquatic Assistants in the council's sports facilities.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 The ASA is the English national governing body for swimming, diving, water polo, open water and synchronised swimming.

2.2 The ASA has secured funding through the National Skills Academy for Sport and Active Leisure and the Government's Future Jobs Fund, to employ 300 Trainee Aquatic Assistants.

2.3 The ASA is looking to fund placements for the trainees in local swimming pools throughout England.

2.4 As well as gaining work experience, trainees will have the opportunity to achieve recognised qualifications including the ASA UkCC Level 1 Certificate in Teaching Aquatics and the Royal Lifesaving Society National Pool Lifeguard. They will also attend the ASA's in-house training on the Free Swimming initiative and benefit from vocational training in areas such as customer services.

2.5 The ASA have offered the council the opportunity to host four Trainee Aquatic Assistants on a secondment for a period of six months.

2.6 The Trainee Aquatic Assistants will remain employees of the ASA during the period of secondment.

2.7 The ASA will be responsible for carrying out Criminal Records Bureau and other safeguarding checks.

2.8 The principal role of the Trainee Aquatic Assistant is to support the development of swimming to improve health and fitness and participation within the community. This fits with the aims set out in the Active Choices Active Futures strategy. The ASA have selected and recruited four candidates who they would like to place into the council. Three of the young people are from North Lincolnshire and one from North East Lincolnshire.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 The options for consideration are as follows.

3.1.1 Option 1:

To accept the offer from the ASA to host four Trainee Aquatic Assistant posts.

3.1.2 Option 2:

To reject the offer from the ASA.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Option 1 is the best option. It offers Sports Facilities additional staff to deliver services, develops potential future employees and gives four young people valuable work experience and training. It also fits with one of the priorities in Going Forward Together, enhancing skills and increasing employment opportunities.

4.2 The Future Jobs Fund provides significant investment in North Lincolnshire to support young people in the midst of a recession.

4.3 Rejecting the offer from the ASA does nothing to help deliver the strategic priority to enhance skills and increase employment opportunities.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 Financial

The ASA are responsible for all costs associated with the employment of the Trainee Aquatic Assistants.

5.2 There are no other resource implications arising from the proposal.

6. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)**

6.1 Diversity

The ASA is required to recruit employees within the requirements set out by the Department for Work & Pensions i.e. specific target groups are only eligible to access Future Jobs Funded posts.

6.2 There are no other implications arising from the proposal.

7. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

7.1 A copy of the report was sent to the Branch Secretaries of Unison and the GMB. No adverse comments were received as a result.

8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 That the Cabinet Member approves the offer from the ASA to host four Trainee Aquatic Assistants in the councils sports facilities.

SERVICE DIRECTOR ASSET MANAGEMENT AND CULTURE

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: None