

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**ASSET MANAGEMENT CULTURE AND
HOUSING CABINET MEMBER**

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE MUSEUMS SERVICE CHARGES FOR SCHOOL VISITS

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

1.1 To agree the charges for school visits to the North Lincolnshire Museum, Normanby Hall Country Park and Waters' Edge for 2013/2014.

1.2 The key points of the report are as follows:

- We need to start work in January 2013 to promote the education service to schools.
- We need to know what our charges will be in order to include them in our leaflet.

1.3 We are bringing this paper in response to the withdrawal of the Dedicated Schools Grant for Museum Education.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 We have been told by the Schools Forum that the Dedicated Schools Grant for museum education is to be removed in April 2013. We have received this grant every year since 1997 to help to fund museum education. The grant is used to subsidise the cost of school visits. At present we receive £1.53 for every pupil in primary school in North Lincolnshire.

2.2 If we are to meet our income target for school visits in future, we will need to look again at our charges. At present we charge schools outside North Lincolnshire a higher price for our workshops. The recent changes to the way schools are funded means we should treat them all in the same way in future.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Option 1: We would like to move to a per pupil charge for our workshops. At present we charge for the workshop, no matter how many children

attend. We would not wish to set a fixed charge per pupil at this stage. We would like to have the discretion to negotiate the price depending upon the size of the school and the number of visits they wished to make. We would also like to remove the two scales of charging for children inside and outside North Lincolnshire.

3.2 Option 2: We continue to charge per workshop and to operate the two scales of charges for inside and outside of North Lincolnshire.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Option 1: If we were to introduce the per pupil charge, based on current usage and additional promotion work we estimate that we could meet our income target. We have undertaken research into the fees charged for school workshops in our neighbouring local authorities. We would take this information into account when setting our own prices.

4.2 Option 2: If we continue to charge per workshop we will not be able to meet our income targets.

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

5.1 The removal of the Dedicated Schools Grant creates a budget pressure of £19,855. Option 1 gives us the best chance of meeting this income shortfall.

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

6.1 By keeping our services affordable we can help to ensure that all school children have access to learning outside the classroom. We have good evidence to show the impact that this has on their attainment levels.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

7.1 We have consulted with the Schools Forum. They made the decision not to continue with the grant in future years.

7.2 We have consulted with staff who agree that we should introduce per pupil charging.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the Cabinet Member agrees that we move to charging per pupil, rather than per workshop. We will set the charges at a level that will

enable the service to meet its income targets and to continue to provide value for money for schools.

8.2 That the Cabinet Member agrees that we no longer operate two scales of charges for schools inside and outside North Lincolnshire. There will be flexibility in negotiating charges with individual schools.

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: None