

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**ASSET AND ESTATE MANAGEMENT,  
SPORT, LEISURE AND CULTURE  
CABINET MEMBER**

**20-21 VISUAL ART CENTRE CAFÉ**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek approval to look at ways in which 20-21 Visual Art Centre café (the café) can operate at no cost to the council.
- 1.2 The key points in this report are as follows:
  - 20-21 Visual Art Centre café currently runs at a cost of around £20,000 per year to the council.
  - The council needs to investigate how this subsidy can be reduced

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The council spends around £20,000 per year to run the café at the 20-21 Visual Art Centre (the café).
- 2.2 The council set its budget for 2011/12 in February 2011. The council removed the café's ongoing subsidy as a budget saving.
- 2.3 We need to look at options to remove the cost of the café. The following options are worthy of consideration.
  - The council continues to manage the café but changes the way it operates
  - The café is transferred to another provider to operate
  - The café closes

**3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 **Option 1** – Do nothing.
- 3.2 **Option 2** – To consider if and how the café can continue to operate without any cost to the council.

#### **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 **Option 1** – This option is not recommended. Officers do not consider that it is feasible to achieve the savings required without changing the way in which the café service is delivered.

4.2 **Option 2** – Careful investigation of the options listed in 2.3 needs to take place to see if they are viable.

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

5.1 The Arts Manager will manage the review process.

5.2 Officers will consult staff and the relevant trade unions on the Terms of Reference of the review before going ahead.

5.3 The 'Request for Information' process shall be run on the council's tender portal at no cost.

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

6.1 None.

#### **7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

7.1 The Arts Manager has met with the catering staff at the café' and with a Unison representative to outline the proposal to reduce the café's subsidy. They all agree that the review of options for the café is necessary to achieve a reduction in the net cost of the service.

#### **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 That the Cabinet Member approves an investigation of the available options to reduce the café subsidy.

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: Nil**