

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CORPORATE SERVICES CABINET MEMBER

CREATION OF 14-19 TRANSPORT AND ACCESS STRATEGY MANAGER

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for the establishment of a new fixed term post of 14-19 Transport and Access Strategy Manager

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has recognised that rural areas face distinct challenges in implementing the reforms which offer students the chance to attend diplomas at schools and colleges other than those at which they are on roll. They are therefore providing pump-priming support for the 40 most rural authorities, which include North Lincolnshire. This includes funding a post to develop the 14-19 transport and access strategy for an eighteen-month period from 2008-2010.
- 2.2 From September 2009 four diplomas will be offered to pre-16 students at three of our secondary schools and North Lindsey College. These will be available to students at any secondary school, not just those registered at the school that offers the diploma. This will present access problems, as the present public transport network is unlikely to be able to provide solutions to meet all students' needs. The number of diplomas on offer will increase year by year. From 2013, all students aged 14-16 will be offered the chance to study on a diploma course.
- 2.3 The post is needed to review, plan and advise on the transport solutions to enable the 14-19 education reforms to be implemented effectively in North Lincolnshire. The post holder will also review the provision of transport to further education colleges, school 6th forms and alternative learning placements for Key Stage 4 students. They will work closely with the 14-19 Strategy Co-ordinator, school transport staff, secondary schools and colleges, as well as co-ordinators in the other rural authorities receiving DCSF funding.

- 2.4 We are keen to establish the post as soon as possible, to ensure transport arrangements for diplomas are in place by September 2009, and to develop a strategy to ensure sustainable and affordable transport solutions are found for 14-19 students travelling to education placements in future years.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Not to appoint a 14-19 Transport and Access Strategy Manager.
- 3.2 To establish and fill the new, fixed term, full-time post of 14-19 Transport and Access Manager.
- 3.3 To use the DCSF funding to employ a consultant to complete the task of transport planning and preparation for 14-19 diplomas from September 2009.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Not filling the post will mean that the council will miss the opportunity to explore innovative and integrated solutions to the transport problems involved in offering diplomas and alternative learning programmes for young people aged 14-19. The funding is ring-fenced so it cannot be spent on other areas of the service.
- 4.2 Filling the post of 14-19 Transport and Access Strategy Manager will enable the council to plan and implement effective, creative and sustainable solutions to the transport problems and give young people access to the widest possible range of education and learning options.
- 4.3 A clear specification of the work required would have to be drawn up before consultants could be appointed. This would take time and may not offer the best value for money. It could make communication and consultation with co-ordinators in other rural councils more difficult.

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

- 5.1 £75,000 is available over an 18 month period for the post of 14-19 Transport and Access Co-ordinator.
- 5.2 The post has been evaluated at grade 8. The mid point cost of the grade 8 post for a 12 month period (including on costs at 29.5%) is £36,476.
- 5.3 The balance of the DCSF funding will be sufficient to cover the cost of equipment and materials, IT support and software as well as visits and events outside the authority.

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

6.1 There are no statutory or other implications.

7. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

7.1 The recommendations in the report have been discussed and agreed with officers concerned with 14-19 diplomas and transport procurement and planning in the Children and Young People's and Highways and Planning Services.

7.2 Unions have been consulted and no concerns have been raised.

8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 That Cabinet Member approves the creation of a full-time, fixed-term post of 14-19 Transport and Access Co-ordinator with effect from 1 April 2009.

SERVICE DIRECTOR CHILDREN, STRATEGY AND PARTNERSHIPS

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report

Delivering 14-19 Reforms in Rural Areas – Final Report – DCSF 2008

APPENDIX 1 - SCHEDULE

	CREATE
Post No	TBC
Post Title	14 – 19 Transport Co-ordinator
Grade	8
Grade approved?	Yes
Hours WTE	37
Contract Type	Fixed Term
Start & End date	ASAP
Establishment	Children, Strategy and Partnerships
Cost Centre	E644
Funding source	Grant
Essential car user?	TBC
Mid Point costings, inc 29.5% on costs	36,476