

GRANT TO P3 JOB SHOP SERVICE

Note: Special Urgency provisions are enabled to allow consideration of this item. Please see the end of the report for further details.

Cabinet Members	Councillor Ray Puddifoot & Cllr Douglas Mills
Cabinet Portfolios	Leader of the Council & Improvement, Partnerships & Community Safety
Officer Contact	Nigel Cramb
Papers with report	Nil

HEADLINE INFORMATION

Purpose of report	To consider making a one off grant of £40,000 to the voluntary organisation P3.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	The allocation of funds to P3 will support the key Community Strategy priority of creating a thriving economy.
Financial Cost	There will be a one off commitment of £40,000.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Corporate Services and Partnerships Policy
Ward(s) affected	The service P3 provide is available borough wide but the offices are based in West Drayton and Pinkwell Wards.

RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet approve a one off grant of £40,000 to the voluntary organisation P3 specifically to support the job shop service currently operating in West Drayton and Hayes.

INFORMATION

Reasons for recommendation

The Job shop service offered by P3 has taken several years to evolve and is a significant resource for young people who need extra support in terms of accessing training and employment opportunities. P3 are facing a lack of funding to sustain the service and if support is not secured the service will have to close on 1st June 2009. If this service closes it is unlikely that it will be re-established in the future.

Alternative options considered / risk management

P3 have sought funding from a range of other funders but to date have not been successful. The options are either to commit funding to sustain the service for a period of six months and therefore give P3 the opportunity to secure alternative funds or reject P3's request for assistance, which will mean the closure of the job shop service in the borough.

Comments of Policy Overview Committee

The request from P3 has only just been received therefore the Corporate Services and Partnerships Policy Overview Committee has not been consulted. In 2006/7 however the Committee undertook a review into the effectiveness of the financial support the Council commits to the voluntary sector and one of the organisations the Committee reviewed was P3. The Committee received written submissions from P3 and interviewed both staff and clients from the organisations. The Committee was extremely impressed by the professional way the organisation was run and by the value the organisations clients placed on the services P3 provided. P3 compared favourably with other organisations the Committee interviewed as part of its review.

Supporting Information

P3's typical client group is between 16-25, unemployed, with no or low skills and having dropped out of education. Additionally, most clients will present with a range of other 'issues' which can include homelessness, or being socially excluded either through mental health problems or drug addiction. Some of P3's clients are ex-offenders.

P3's services split into 3 broad areas;

- Supported housing – services for those who are homeless and in need of support to adapt to independent living. Housing support service not directly affected but will no longer provide tailored employment support or take referrals to support homeless residents.
- Advice and Guidance – for young people aged 13 – 25 on a range of issues
- Job shop Employment and Training – Established in 2003 the service specialises in supporting young people aged 16 – 25 who are unemployed with no or low skills, addressing their skills needs and then supporting them to the appropriate employers/ training providers. The Job shop operates both in Hayes and West Drayton and currently the five staff are supporting 120 clients.

Funding - core costs

The Council has been a long term funder of Project 2041, which evolved into P3 and has consistently made a contribution towards the organisations core costs from the Corporate Grants budget. For the 2009/10 financial year, the Council made a grant of £25,511.

Funding – Job shop

Up until 31st March 2009, the main funding for Job shop project £75,000 per year came from London Development Agency (LDA) via the "Heathrow City" area programme. The Job shop programme consistently met the targets and in 2008/9 supported 150 young people, with 140

receiving information and guidance and 2-week employer focused training. From these, 40 Hillingdon residents secured employment.

The LDA funding was supplemented by a £50,000 per year award for two years from our Local Area Agreement pump priming grant to ensure young people living in West Drayton had access to employment advice and support. This also ended on 31st March 2009.

Despite pursuing a range of alternative funding sources over the last six months to replace LDA and Local authority pump priming funds P3 have not been successful and the loss of both sources of funding has put P3 on the verge of closing both the Hayes and West Drayton offices. P3 advise that they need £91,000 to enable the continuation of the service in its current form for the next 12 months.

The loss of service in the borough would be a significant setback and once closed it is unlikely that the Job shop service could be easily resurrected or replaced in the future. Ironically the potential loss of the service comes at a time of growing unemployment in the borough. The statistics below bear this out.

Unemployment Data 18-24 year olds claiming Jobseekers Allowance

Ward	April 09	April 08
Botwell	150	95
Pinkwell	115	40
Townfield	135	75
Yiewsley	100	40
West Drayton	100	50

Officers are recommending a one off grant of £40,000 which will enable P3 to continue its activities for a further six months. It will also enable officers to work with the organisation to explore future funding and service delivery options. P3 currently have a bid with Hillingdon Community Trust for £45,000.

Financial Implications

There is no provision within existing service budgets to fund this one-off grant so funding will be required either from unallocated priority growth or from the unallocated element of the development and risk contingency. At the start of the 2009/10 financial year there is £500k in unallocated central contingency and £700k in unallocated priority growth.

EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

If the recommendation is agreed the funding committed will enable P3 to continue to deliver a valued service to a range of borough residents, particularly young people. P3 are confident that if funding can be secured over the next 12 months they will support up to 300 young people access advice training and for a number of these young people sustained employment.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

Due to the limited time available discussions have been limited between P3 and officers from the Councils DCEO's Partnership team. Should the Cabinet choose to support the recommendations further discussions with P3 and other partners will be brokered.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed the report and is satisfied that the financial implications stated in the report properly reflect the direct resource implications and that there are no wider implication at this stage for the Council's resources as a whole.

Legal

The Council can legitimately use the well-being power, contained in Part I of the Local Government Act 2000, to make a one off grant payment of £40,000 to P3.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

SPECIAL URGENCY

Following the above request from P3 and the relative urgency, this item was not included on the Forward Plan and notice was not given on the Cabinet agenda for May 2009. Both the Leader of the Council and Chairman of the Corporate Services Policy Overview Committee have therefore approved use of the special urgency procedures in the Constitution to allow this report's urgent consideration.

The reasons for urgency are identified within the content of the report. P3 are facing a lack of funding to sustain the service and if support is not secured the service will have to close on 1st June 2009. If this service closes it is unlikely that it will be re-established in the future.
