

6 January 2015

Agenda Item: 9

REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, CORPORATE STRATEGY

EXPERIENCE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE – LETTER OF SUPPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To advise Members of a letter of support sent by the County Council to Experience Nottinghamshire (EN) prior to its Board meeting on 9th December 2014 that was authorised under the urgency procedure.

Information and Advice

2. Experience Nottinghamshire undertakes destination marketing for tourism and advising on the visitor economy within Nottinghamshire. The County Council is a core funder of EN and a three year Service Level Agreement (SLA) is currently in place with EN to provide funding of £118,000 per annum. This SLA comes to an end on 31 March 2015. The SLA stipulates a three months' notice period and that the County Council would inform EN of their intention with regard to future funding by the end of December 2014.
3. As members are aware the County and City Councils together with other partners are working to establish a Place Marketing Organisation (PMO) to undertake the marketing of Nottinghamshire to potential investors, visitors and residents bringing together into one organisation the work currently done by EN and Invest in Nottingham.
4. Whilst work is continuing on the establishment of the PMO Experience Nottinghamshire will continue to undertake the work described in paragraph two above. EN auditors required some reassurance on the interim funding available to Experience Nottinghamshire before the establishment of the new PMO in order to be able to sign off the accounts. The form of wording attached at Appendix 1 was agreed.
5. The letter of support was authorised through the provisions for urgent decisions by the Chief Executive (Option C, Part C of the Constitution – decision by the Chief Executive) due to the EN Board meeting date being outside of the Committee cycle.

Other Options Considered

6. None

Reason/s for Recommendation

7. Decisions taken through the urgency procedures are required to be reported to the next available Committee meeting.

Statutory and Policy Implications

8. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) It is recommended that Committee notes the use of the urgency procedure to authorise the Council's letter of support for Experience Nottinghamshire.

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Constitutional Comments (CEH 18/12/14)

The proposal in this report is within the remit of the Economic Development Committee and is for noting only.

Financial Comments (SEM 18/12/14)

The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected: All

Appendix 1

Proposal for Future Funding of Experience Nottinghamshire

An SLA currently exists between ENL and County Council to provide funding of £118,000 per annum for the period ended 31 March 2015. The SLA stipulated a three months' notice period but the County Council agreed to let ENL know their intention with regard to future funding by the end of December 2014. Consideration now needs to be given to future funding arrangements: this is complicated by the potential changes to the ENL organisation. However, we recognise that it is now important both to allow ENL to plan activities for the 2015-16 year and for the auditors of ENL that a level of commitment is offered for the year to 31 March 2016.

The County Council is committed to assisting ENL, or its PMO successor organisation in providing the work carried on in promoting tourism in Nottinghamshire in the future. Whilst a final figure of cash support cannot be agreed at this stage the Council proposes to pay ENL or its PMO successor organisation a sum of a similar nature to the current payments.

It is likely that once a final decision has been taken on the structure of the new PMO the period in which this will be enacted will be at least three months. As soon as a final decision is made the Council reserves its right to give 3 months' notice to ENL on its intentions.