

## **TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **Report to the Council's EXECUTIVE Committee**

**9 October 2007**

Report of the Economic Development Manager:

#### **YOUNG ENTERPRISE PRIMARY PROGRAMME IN TAUNTON DEANE (This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor J Horsley – Portfolio holder for Economic Development, Regeneration and Property)**

##### **1. Purpose of Report**

1. To advise Members of the outcome of the first year of the Young Enterprise Primary Programme in Taunton Deane.
2. To seek approval to £5,000 to fund the second year of the Programme

##### **2. Background**

2.1. In October 2006 the Councils' Executive agreed to

- a) Approve proposals to deliver a Young Enterprise Primary Programme in Schools across the Borough. This Programme is organised and delivered by Young Enterprise (South West), and is specifically aimed at primary school pupils
  - b) Approve proposals to fund this program at £5000 for each of the years 06/07, 07/08, and 08/09 from the allocation of Local Authority Business Growth Initiative (LABGI) grant .
- 2.2. This scheme is an initiative to work with local primary school pupils to increase their understanding of the world of work / business and enterprise culture. The Young Enterprise Primary programme is delivered with the help of volunteers from the business community- which helps build further links between Education and Business.
- 2.3. First year funding enabled 20 of TDBC's 42 primary schools to partake in the programme. This will rise to 24 schools in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year and 28 schools in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year.
- 2.4. Young Enterprise was required to target schools in the more deprived areas of North and East Taunton and West and North Wellington first.

##### **3. Review of first year of operation**

- 3.1. Young Enterprise has delivered well against its targets and promises. It's targets and achievements were agreed as follows:
- **Engaging 20 schools in the first year.**  
YE has enrolled and delivered the Programme to 16 schools, with a further 4 being delivered as part of this programme during the current autumn term.
  - **Enrolling 600 pupils in the Programme in Year One.**  
Achieved 538 pupils so far, with 4 further schools involving approx 120 pupils in the autumn term. The Programme will exceed the target of 600 pupils.
  - **Engaging with at least 12 new business people to support and help deliver the Programme across the Deane.**  
This target has proven difficult to achieve, and will be the subject of further promotion and development over the coming school year.
- 3.2. Young Enterprise (SW) has provided the Council with a report on the first year of the Programme, a copy of which has been placed in the Members Room.
- 3.3. YE had difficulty in getting the targeted schools from the deprived areas to participate. None were involved in the first year. However 3 of the 5 targeted schools have indicated that they will sign up in the second year of the Programme (Halcon, Priorswood, and St Johns Wellington). It is hoped to sign up Rockwell Green as well. At present Lyngford Primary is not responding to YE.
- 3.4. Ideally volunteers from business should deliver the programme in the schools, however YE have found it difficult to recruit enough volunteer advisors over the course of the first year of the Programme. YE have delivered the programme using their in-house staff where business volunteers could not be found.
- 3.5. The second year of the Programme (2007/08) will seek to enrol 24 schools on the scheme. Young Enterprise feel they can achieve this target. In the third year the Programme will be delivered to 28 schools in the Deane.
- 3.6. Each School contributes to the costs of the Programme in their own premises, and individual school's financial contribution rises in subsequent years if they continue with the Programme. This additional income is used by Young Enterprise to help finance more schools joining the scheme.

- 3.7. Feedback from Schools and Advisors has been very positive, with all schools participating in the first year programme wishing to continue and signing up to continue with Programme in the current (new) school year.
- 3.8. In the light of difficulties experienced in recruiting local business 'mentors' into the Programme, Young Enterprise has indicated that Councillor 'Mentors' would be most welcome to help deliver the scheme in schools. Mentors are supported by a range of YE materials, and classroom support from the school. Any interested councillor should contact Roly England (01823 356486) in the first instance.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1. In 2006/07 school year the cost of the Programme has been £5,000. This was financed from LABGI funds received from Government.
- 4.2. Proposals to continue and extend the Programme to a wider group of schools in the Deane during 2007/08 can be accommodated within the contract agreed with Young Enterprise at a cost of £5,000. This has been allocated from the 2007/08 LABGI award.

#### **5. Recommendation**

- 5.1. The Executive is recommended to:
  - a) Note the success of the first year of the Young Enterprise Programme in Taunton Deane
  - b) Approve a funding contribution of £5,000 in 2007/08 Financial Year to enable the Programme to be delivered to a wider range of schools across the Deane

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