

TITLE	Tyr Abad Residential Education Centre (TREC)
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	The Executive on Thursday 31st January 2019
WARD	None specific
DIRECTOR	Director of Children's Services – Carol Cammiss
LEAD MEMBER	Executive Member for Children's Services - Pauline Helliar-Symons

PURPOSE OF REPORT (INC STRATEGIC OUTCOMES)

This report provides:

- an update on discussions that have been held to date with the TREC
- a description of the key issues
- information on the areas of concern raised by the TREC to WBC
- options for action that WBC could take

RECOMMENDATION

The Executive is recommended to:

- 1) note the report and areas of concern raised by the Tyr Abad Residential Education Centre (TREC);
- 2) consider the options outlined in Part 2 of the report in order to facilitate a resolution to the current situation;
- 3) approve a recommendation that the Council offers support in the areas set out in Part 2 of the report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Tyr Abad Residential Education Centre (TREC) was set up in the early 1970's by the head-teachers of three Berkshire schools (The Emmbrook, Charters in Ascot and Maiden Erlegh in Earley), to provide students from these founding schools and others with an outward bound experience from a residential centre located in a remote part of the Brecon Beacons.

The Council has no direct involvement with the day to day running of the centre. It does employ three members of senior staff.

Approval has previously been sought and given for WBC officers to begin discussions with the Trust about current arrangements.

Part 2 of the report provides details on the nature of the discussions and the proposed options for Executive to consider.

BACKGROUND

1.1 Tyr Abad Residential Education Centre (TREC) is an outdoor educational centre in Wales. It is a registered charity that was set up in the early 1970's by the head-teachers of three local secondary schools. The 'principle objective of the Trust is: "To promote a learning and educational outdoor pursuits environment primarily, though not exclusively, for the students of Emmbrook School, Charters School and Maiden Erlegh School". Students experience a variety of activities including canoeing, mountain climbing, abseiling, river walking, problem solving and other demanding outdoor activities. Through its activities and role as an employer the TREC plays an important part in the local economy of its remote rural setting.

1.2 Nearly all TREC centre bookings are for Berkshire students and about half of the visiting students are from the Wokingham area. Numbers of courses and visiting students are set out below:

- 2017-18 33 courses (1103 visiting students)
- 2016-17 31 courses (1047 visiting students)
- 2015-16 32 courses (1100 visiting students)

1.3 The TREC reports that these are typical numbers and have been steady since the centre's founding in the early 1970s. In addition, officers are aware of a 'New Futures course' whereby pupils from Addington, a school catering for pupils with special educational needs, are supported by sixth form students from the founder schools.

1.4 The Council employs three staff to carry out the work at the centre on behalf of the TREC. The Council also has an arrangement with TREC whereby the salary bill for the three teaching staff based at the TREC Centre is paid in two instalments in the following year.

1.5 Part 2 of the report provides options for Executive to consider in light of the above arrangement.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	As set out in Part 2 of the Report		
Next Financial Year (Year 2)			
Following Financial Year (Year 3)			

Other Financial Information	
As set out in Part 2	
Stakeholder Considerations and Consultation	
As set out in Part 2	
Resourcing and Timeline for Next Steps	
As set out in Part 2	
Timeline for Review and Evaluation	
As set out in Part 2	
Reasons for considering the report in Part 2	
The report contains sensitive personal information regarding three individual members of staff	
List of Background Papers	
Appendix 1: Pensions Information	
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