

Report of the Head of Public Protection

OPEN WATER EDUCATION NETWORK TRUST1. Purpose of report

To recommend to the Finance and Resources Committee that a payment of £3,000 per year be made to Liberty Leisure to enable water safety education in schools to be undertaken in support of the Open Water Network Trust (OWEN Trust) and to note the use of Council resources to provide equipment and other support to the OWEN Trust.

2. Detail

Members will be aware of the terrible tragedy which occurred in July 2017 when 12 year old Owen Jenkins lost his life while rescuing two girls from the water at Beeston Weir. Since that time, Broxtowe Borough Council has been involved in a number of initiatives in the borough and across the county to improve water safety. Further details are set out in the appendix. Liberty Leisure have played a key role in these initiatives and it is proposed that they are paid £3,000 per annum to enable this to continue.

It is also considered that the OWEN Trust would benefit from having a projector, practice throw line and street art and it is proposed that this be supported by the Council.

3. Financial implications

The management fee to be paid to Liberty Leisure in 2018/19 for the provision of leisure and cultural activities has been agreed at £1,030,000. The cost of the additional £3,000 in 2018/19 as set out above can be met from the 2018/19 contingency reserve of which £25,000 is presently available. The cost of this work in future years will form part of the negotiations between the Council and Liberty Leisure on the management fee.

The cost of the projector, practice throw lines and street art (estimated at this stage at £2,000) can be met from the £33,700 in the 2018/19 capital programme for water safety measures.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) **RECOMMEND to Finance and Resources Committee that a contribution of £3,000 be made to Liberty Leisure in 2018/19 for work in support of the OWEN Trust and funded from revenue contingencies.**
- (2) **NOTE the use of some of the £33,700 in the 2018/19 capital programme for water safety measures for the purchase of practice throw lines, a projector, and commissioning of water safety themed street art.**

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX

Many of the positive initiatives have been driven by Owen's family. They have worked tirelessly to promote the cause of water safety and have founded the OWEN Trust in his memory. The name of the trust, as well as being a reference to Owen himself, is an acronym for Open Water Education Network. The aim of the trust is to spread a positive message about water safety to as many children as possible to ensure more lives are not lost.

Liberty Leisure, who manage the Council's leisure services, have been working closely with the OWEN Trust and other partners to develop relevant training courses and resources. This link, and the input of Liberty Leisure, have been identified by the Trust as extremely beneficial, and they would like to see this involvement continue. A sum of £3,000 per annum paid by the Council to Liberty Leisure would enable this aspect of the Trust's work to continue. This would include the provision of drowning prevention workshops, ambassador training, cold water winter workshops and school assemblies.

It has also been identified that the work would benefit greatly by having a projector and practice throw-lines. Also, the provision of some commissioned street art at the weir, along the lines of that in Beeston, promoting the water safety message is considered to be a positive action. It is estimated that these costs are approximately £2,000. There is a sum of £33,700 in the 2018/19 capital programme for the provision of various water safety measures aimed at improving safety on watercourses owned and/or maintained by the Borough Council and this will be used, among other things, to meet cost of these items for the OWEN Trust.