

SUBJECT:	Community Focussed School Business Managers Pilot Scheme Programme
MEETING:	Individual Cabinet Member Decision – Cllr Sara Jones
DATE:	2nd January 2019
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	Chepstow and Usk

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To request approval for the Council to participate in the delivery of the Community Focussed School Business Managers Pilot Scheme Programme.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To approve the Council's participation in the Community Focussed School Business Managers Pilot Scheme Programme funded under the authority of the Cabinet Secretary for Education.
- 2.2 To approve the appointment of a fixed term Community Focussed School Business Manager who will be funded via the programme and an in-kind programme management contribution from the Community and Partnership Development team.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 In March 2018 the Council were invited to submit an innovative bid for 'Community Focussed School Business Managers' as part of the Cabinet Secretary for Education's additional £100 million to raise school standards.
- 3.2 The funding opportunity recognised:
- That the new curriculum would be built around four purposes, one of which is to prepare young people for life and work recognising Welsh Government's commitment to increase employer engagement with schools, to help raise young people's aspirations and to understand and gain the skills and behaviours needed in the workplace;
 - The need for partnership working between schools and a range of community partners, including statutory services, in order to better coordinate efforts to improve outcomes, and mitigate the effects of disadvantage; and
 - The current lack of capacity for some schools to identify and nurture these partnerships and to apply it across a cluster of schools.
- 3.3 The Council were therefore invited to submit a proposal aimed at raising standards via a dedicated single point of contact, a Community Focussed School Business Manager, who would manage and facilitate communication and activity with business and community partners. The purpose of the role being to:
- Build upon learning from established national programmes to utilise social capital to address educational disadvantage;
 - Establish and grow connections between the cluster schools and the local business community in order to provide a range of practical and aspirational employment related opportunities for students; and
 - Create a range of opportunities for students to work collaboratively with community members and groups in the Chepstow cluster locality.
- 3.4 The Grade H post will be part time (22 hours per week) and will be line managed by the Community and Partnership Development team to integrate with the priorities of the wider social justice agenda. The majority of the person's time will be spent within the cluster area.

4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

4.1 Summarised below for Members’ consideration from Future Generations Evaluation located in Appendix A:

The initiative seeks to increase employer engagement with schools, to help raise young people’s aspirations and to understand and gain the skills and behaviours needed in the workplace. The partnership arrangement will ensure better coordination to improve outcomes, and mitigate the effects of disadvantage.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL:

5.1 Options Analysis

Option	Benefits	Risks	Comments
Do nothing	None identified	Lost opportunity to help raise young people’s aspirations.	Current limited offer of life skill learning opportunities would continue.
Implement programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased school-employer engagement; • Increased partnerships with community organisations and statutory services, to enrich and enhance curriculum delivery and strengthen pastoral support; • Increased school-school working, both within and across clusters; • Increased use of school premises; and • Sharing of good practice between schools and school clusters. 	Delays in implementing the programme due to recruitment issues.	Funded opportunity to raise young people’s aspirations by building relationships with local business and communities.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA:

6.1 An evaluation assessment has been included in Appendix B for future evaluation of whether the decision has been successfully implemented. Given the time limited nature of the initiative the decision will be evaluated by Stronger Communities Select Committee via a report which will seek to evaluate progress and outcomes.

7. REASONS:

7.1 The initiative builds upon the School Business Manager pilot launched earlier in 2018 to provide dedicated support for leaders and teachers, so that they can better focus on raising standards in schools.

7.2 This second pilot will draw on learning from established national programmes to utilise social capital to address educational disadvantage by establishing and growing

connections between the cluster schools and the local business community in order to provide a range of practical and aspirational employment related opportunities for students. A range of opportunities will be identified to enable students to work collaboratively with community members and groups in the Chepstow cluster locality.

7.3 The pilot will build on strong foundations of existing work and partnerships (e.g. Youth Enterprise, Volunteering, Community Ambassadors) whilst embracing learning from programmes elsewhere (e.g. Action Tutoring, Big Alliance, Reading Buddies). However it will also be focused on the development of Monmouthshire-specific solutions, tapping into the rich social capital of the Chepstow area.

7.4 In measuring the success of the initiative the team will consider:

- No. businesses involved in the cluster (through mentoring, volunteering, visiting, etc.);
- No. community members volunteering in the cluster schools;
- No. pupils engaged through volunteer mentor / tutoring programmes;
- Average progress of target FSM pupils in target subjects;
- An assessment of pupil career intentions (measured at outset and again at end); and
- No. young people engaged in volunteering activity

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

8.1 The Council received approval for the funding application in October 2018 of up to £16,000 for 2018/19 and £7k in 2019/20. There are no cash implications for the Council for this initiative other than match funding of management officer time 'in-kind'.

9. CONSULTEES:

Chepstow Cluster Co-ordinator;
Heads of Chepstow Cluster Schools (Chepstow School, The Dell, Pembroke, Shirenewton, St Mary's, Thornwell) Cluster schools;
Senior Leadership Team; and
Cabinet

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

- a) Appendix A – Future Generations Evaluation
- b) Appendix B – Evaluation Criteria

11. AUTHOR:

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12. CONTACT DETAILS:

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Appendix B**Evaluation Criteria – Cabinet, Individual Cabinet Member Decisions & Council**

Title of Report:	COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGERS PILOT
Date decision was made:	5TH DECEMBER 2018
Report Author:	Sharran Lloyd

What will happen as a result of this decision being approved by Cabinet or Council?

Given the time limited nature of the initiative the decision will be evaluated by Stronger Communities Select Committee via a report which will be presented to Stronger Communities Select Committee to evaluate progress and outcomes.

What benchmarks and/or criteria will you use to determine whether the decision has been successfully implemented?

In measuring the success of the initiative the team will consider:

- No. businesses involved in the cluster (through mentoring, volunteering, visiting, etc.);
 - No. community members volunteering in the cluster schools;
 - No. pupils engaged through volunteer mentor / tutoring programmes;
 - Average progress of target FSM pupils in target subjects;
 - An assessment of pupil career intentions (measured at outset and again at end); and
 - No. young people engaged in volunteering activity
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What is the estimate cost of implementing this decision or, if the decision is designed to save money, what is the proposed saving that the decision will achieve?

There are no cash implications for the Council for this initiative other than match funding of management officer time 'in-kind'.