

EDUCATION, LEISURE & LIFELONG LEARNING

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, LEISURE & LIFELONG LEARNING – MR. A. EVANS

20th October 2014

SECTION B - MATTER FOR INFORMATION

WARDS AFFECTED: All

COGNATION MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS SOUTH WALES

1. Purpose of Report

To update Members on a change to the Cognition Mountain Bike (mtb) Trails South Wales staff structure, through the re-evaluation of the current Finance and Administration Officer Grade 5 scp 20 - 24. The re-evaluated post is called the Cognition Project Officer Grade 7 SCP 27 - 31. The post is a temporary position that will exist only for the fixed term until 31st March 2015.

2. Background

Cognition Mtb Trails South Wales' main objective is to make the area one of most exciting and accessible off-road cycle networks in the UK. Mountain biking is one of the strongest tourism activities within Neath Port Talbot, and an activity the local economy relies strongly on. The project is led by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and is supported by Visit Wales, Caerphilly CBC, Merthyr Tydfil CBC and Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

The project is part-funded by the European Union's, Convergence European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Welsh Government, with match funding from the Heads of the Valleys and Western Valleys Strategic Regeneration Area and Local Authority funding.

This funding has led to the development of new and improved trails as a result of capital works across key sites in South Wales including Afan Forest Park and Margam Country Park. As well as this, the funding has supported an integrated marketing campaign to promote South Wales as a unified mountain bike destination.

3. Proposal

To re-evaluate the current post to provide a continuation of activities to ensure the current external funding is fully allocated. The post holder will also identify future funds to develop mountain biking and associated infrastructure across South Wales.

Due to the end of fixed term contract funding and the subsequent restructure of the Cognation team, the Financial and Administration Officer has had to undertake additional activities since 1st April 2014 in order to continue the project and ensure its success..

The post was therefore re-evaluated to take into account the additional duties. The post holder will be based in The Quays but will work across Neath Port Talbot, Caerphilly and Merthyr Tydfil. The proposed Cognation mtb trails South Wales Staff Structure is attached Appendix 3. Also enclosed for information is the previous structure (appendix 1)

4. Financial Appraisal

The post will be funded by current project partners, namely Natural Resources Wales, Neath Port Talbot CBC, Caerphilly CBC, Merthyr Tydfil CBC, Capital Region Tourism and South West Wales Tourism Partnership. Financial appraisal is attached Appendix 2. Therefore re-evaluation of this post is of minor risk financially to the authority.

5. Recommendations

This report is for information only and advises members of the re-evaluation of the Administration and Finance Officer Grade 5 to Cognation Project Officer Grade 7.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

6. Appendices

Appendix 1 Financial appraisal

Appendix 2 Original Cognation mtb trails South Wales staff structure

Appendix 3 Proposed Cognation mtb trails South Wales staff structure

7. List of Background Papers

None

8. Wards Affected

All

9. Officer Contact

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APPENDIX 1

Financial Appraisal

Costs 2014/2015

<u>Costs</u>	<u>This Year</u>
	<u>£'000</u>
Employee Costs	
- Starting Salary – Grade 7	34823
Other Running Costs (Travelling / Subsistence)	1400
Marketing	14027
Total Recurring Costs	50250
<u>Funding of Recurring Costs</u>	
External Sources	

Funding from Partnership	40,250
Other (Specify)	
Internal Sources	
Existing Budget Allocation	10,000
Other	
Total Funds Available	<hr/> 50250 <hr/>

**Cognition mtb trails South Wales Organisation Chart
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council**

Original Organisation Chart



Proposed Organisation Chart

