

Report Heading:

Purpose of the Report:

This proposal is about Places Matter!, the Architecture Centre for the Northwest, is in response to an enquiry from Ellesmere Port EIP regarding working with schools in Ellesmere Port to engage teachers and students and family community in the numerous physical improvements to their area taking place over the next 3 years.

The following outline proposal acts as a basis for developing a tailored programme of activity whilst allowing significant scope for the project to evolve to meet the needs and interests of the local authority, pupils and teachers involved.

1. Programme Aim

The programme aims to increase teacher and pupil understanding of design, equipping them with the language, confidence and understanding of key principles to enable them to positively engage with and inform design in the Ellesmere Port area. Additionally, it seeks to inspire teachers, students and their families about the built environment and raise their awareness of professional careers in the sector, ensuring they are properly informed of the opportunities available to them.

A pilot programme 'Architects in residence' has just started at The Whitby High school. Feedback from the first sessions indicate there is a huge appetite and interest from pupils for this work. They are engaging with young urban architects, and this will provide a relevant case study.

Recommendations:

1. That funding be pursued for Year 1 to evaluate the impact of this programme
2. Engage the Ellesmere Port Development Board in supporting the implementation of the programme through future development opportunities and the visioning framework which will expose pupils, teaching staff and the wider community to higher order skills/jobs/career pathways
3. Seek funding from the partnership to the Year 1 pilot programme of £14,000 and agree which school to target

Introduction:

The EIP are working through schools and community to promote learning particularly in the perceived 'harder' subjects, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics as skills in these areas will be in demand by employers in the near future.

We have consistently engaged with industry partners over the past 10 years to help us in these areas and we wish to continue to do so. We would like to form links with the new Ellesmere Port Development Board so that we can work up opportunities together which will help our young people become fit for work in the future jobs marketplace, and we seek their help in identifying joint opportunities for high quality programmes which engage our pupils not only in new and skilled career areas but also as stakeholders in their community.

The EIP vision is to 'INSPIRE EXCELLENCE AND ENRICH LIVES TOGETHER'. We are committed to working in partnership to improve outcomes for all within a culture of trust and innovation.

Appendix 1 provides a more detailed report on the overall programme as well as costs beyond the year 1 pilot programme.

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