
RED HALL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

**Responsible Cabinet Member(s) - Councillor Don Bristow,
Resource Management Portfolio**

Responsible Director(s) – Cliff Brown, Community Services

Purpose of Report

1. To seek Members approval for the Corporate Services Financial Section to undertake the monitoring of the financial elements of Red Hall Community Association's Community Centre Refurbishment and Extension project on behalf of Red Hall Community Association.

Information and Analysis

2. Red Hall Community Association have secured £473,000 to refurbish and extend Red Hall Community Centre. The community centre is leased to Red Hall Community Association by Darlington Borough Council.
3. Funds have been secured from various sources including the Big Lottery, Children's Centres Initiative, Henry Smith Trust, Single Programme and others. Work on site needs to start January 2006 to meet the Big Lottery's grant conditions.
4. Development & Environment) have designed the scheme. The scheme is part of the Children's Centre initiative providing wrap-around care for 3 year olds at the neighbouring Red Hall Primary School and the remaining Children's Centre initiatives; health, employment; education and play, to be delivered from the newly refurbished and extended community centre. The request for Corporate Services to undertake the financial management is in line with other requests from community groups; for example the Firthmoor Community Association for the Maidendale House development.
5. The benefits of Corporate Services monitoring the finances of the project are:
 - The finances would be managed professionally.
 - The building is owned by the Council which means that, subject to the consent of the scheme funders, the Council can recover VAT on the project. All funders have given their consent and arrangements are in place for the funds to be passed to the Council and VAT recovery to be effected.

Outcome of Consultation

6. All the residents of Red Hall were consulted as part of the feasibility study for the project.

Legal Implications

7. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

8. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Council Policy Framework

9. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework.

Decision Deadline

10. For the purpose of call in this does represent an urgent matter as works commence in January.

Recommendation

11. It is recommended that Members authorise the Director of Corporate Services to undertake the financial monitoring of Red Hall Community Association's, Community Centre Refurbishment and Extension project.

Reasons

12. The recommendation is supported so that Financial Management Structures are in place to deal with project's finances efficiently.

Cliff Brown
Director of Community Services

Background Papers

- (i) Surestart's Unit 10 year strategy for Childcare (guidance for local authorities 2005).
- (ii) Surestart Children's Centre for every community Phase 2 planning guidance 2006 –2008 (July 2005 National Surestart Unit).
- (iii) Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.

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