

8 July 2013**Agenda Item: 9****REPORT OF THE TEMPORARY GROUP MANAGER SAFER AND ENGAGED
COMMUNITIES****THE CENTRE FOR SPORT AND LEARNING MANTON****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to make a grant with special conditions of up to £10,000 to replace the heating system at the Centre for Sport and Learning in Manton, Worksop.

Information and Advice

2. The Centre for Sport and Learning (CSL) is a Community Resource Centre situated in Manton, Worksop. The CSL is a charitable organisation which currently leases from Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) a sports/learning facility in Worksop South East Ward, on the Manton Estate, off Shrewsbury Road. The facility was formerly the Manton Youth and Community Centre.
3. The usage of the CSL been limited for the last 18 months, since the Centre Manager, employed by the Charity left employment.
4. A new management committee has been appointed and Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service have been asked to act as an anchor tenant and employer of two part time staff.
5. A business development plan has been produced for the next three years and a number of partners including both the District and County Council have agreed to work with the management committee to raise utilisation and income streams.
6. As stated earlier in the report the CSL is underutilised, particularly during the daytime. Current users include the Scouts (50 children) two evenings a week, Sunday Football, Brass Band Practice, Councillors surgeries and the occasional party/function booking. There is scope and opportunity for the centre to have much wider community use with the management committee and partners all committed to realising the benefits of this community building.
7. The management committee have agreed the following vision and strategic aims:

THE VISION

Using the focus of sport, learning and community engagement to bring people together in a community enterprise engendering well-being.

STRATEGIC AIMS

HEALTH - improvement of the health and well-being of the local population.

LEARNING - improving access to community learning and training to raise aspirations.

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING - creation of a successful community enterprise for the benefit of the locality and more widely across Worksop.

SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT - strengthening of civic engagement and civil society in the Manton ward and more widely across Worksop.

ENVIRONMENTAL - creation of a sustainable eco-friendly amenity for future generations.

8. Over the past two winters the Centre have experienced significant problems with the boiler and heating system, at times causing the centre to close to users. On 19 June following the latest breakdown the heating company advised them that Co² readings for the boiler were outside of the safe permitting operational range and the mechanism that is used to adjust the boiler was seized.
9. Further investigations about replacement parts have revealed that they are no longer being manufactured so remedial work on the boiler cannot be undertaken. In addition the report by the heating company has identified a number of faults in the design of the heating system which has resulted in issues around hot water and water pressure.
10. Given the issues identified, particularly around health and safety the boiler has been turned off until a replacement is installed.
11. A regular user of the CSL is the local Clinical Commissioning Group which holds a weekly health clinic on site – this brings tremendous health benefits to the local community and is a source of rental income. Without hot water and heating this clinic will have to move.

Financial Implications

12. The cost of a new boiler and improvements to the heating system has been estimated to be in the region of £10,000. This is something that needs immediate attention.
13. The special conditions attached to the grant would be that an agreement is made between the Council and the management committee to work in partnership with the County Council and other partners on the development plan for the long term sustainability of the Centre.
14. The grant will be funded from the 2013/14 grant aid budget.
15. The Centre for Sport and Learning are working with the County Council as part of a wider project on the role and the future sustainability of Community Resource Centres.

Other Options Considered

16. That the County Council does not support this urgent request. The result of which would be that the plans for re-launching the CSL is put on hold and that existing users are unable to use the centre. This would have a further impact on the centre as these income streams could be lost forever.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

17. The Centre for Sport and Learning provides a Centre for a wide range of community based activity to take place. It has the scope and opportunity to grow and play a more significant role for the people of Manton. Supporting this urgent request would allow plans for further development to continue.

Statutory and Policy Implications

18. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that:

- i) The Grant Aid Committee approves a grant with special conditions of up to £10,000 to the Centre for Sport and Learning.
- ii) That a minimum of two preferably three quotes are obtained for the necessary remedial work.
- iii) The Management Committee of the CSL agree to work in partnership with the County Council to develop the range of activities and maximise usage/income of the centre.

Chris Walker
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For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (SLB 26/06/2013)

Grant Aid Sub-Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (NDR 25.06.13)

The financial implications are set out in paragraphs 12 to 15 of the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

Worksop East