

report



Meeting Administration Committee

date 12 March 2008

agenda item number

Report of the Service Director, Community Safety, Regeneration and Protection

Appointment to “The Crossing” Workso

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of the report is to seek approval to the nomination of a County Councillor to the Board of Directors of The Crossing, Workso.

Information and Advice

2. The Crossing is a newly built multi-purpose facility, for all members of the Workso community and a base for a range of voluntary and community organisations in this town centre location. As well as having strong community representation, The Crossing hosts a range of arts and notably training and education resources having close links with North Nottinghamshire College.
3. The building provides a flexible worship space for the two churches who are major stakeholders in the building, whilst combining this flexible space with more general room hire and conference facilities. The Centre offers “drop-in” facilities including a coffee bar, crèche and general information provision. Further services are identified by the trustees for development, including:
 - young people’s organisations (including the guides / brownies)
 - older people’s organisations
 - groups offering sports and fitness and those supporting the arts
 - homeless services
 - drug and alcohol support
 - support for people with disabilities
 - assistance to black and minority ethnic groups in North Nottinghamshire.

4. The build was accomplished with resources from the churches involved (providing around £750,000) with additional grant support from Coalfield Regeneration Trust, Bassetlaw District Council and the Big Lottery Fund to a total capital cost of £1.6million.
5. The organisation has received significant support from the Economic Regeneration Team of the Culture and Regeneration portfolio. This has facilitated:
 - the drawing together of robust financial projections;
 - developing a legal structure for the new enterprise;
 - operational advice on the running costs and the maximisation of income;
 - the accessing of initial grants to secure support for the staffing costs.
6. The Culture and Regeneration portfolio also supported the start-up costs of management for the building, allowing The Crossing to commence its commercial activity. The Crossing project is making a marked difference to the Worksop town centre in terms of the overall townscape, the vitality of the town and as a focus for the community. The project is driven to fulfil a community role and this is the primary aim of the project. In this context, The Crossing has invited the County Council to nominate a member to sit on the Board of Directors.
7. The necessary commitment is likely to be to attend the board meeting held bi-monthly on weekday evenings. The Crossing is a company limited by guarantee with possible future aspiration to register as a charity. There are a maximum number of 17 directors, with nine from the Crossing Church, two from the facilities users group, one representing young and one representing older people. Also four individual seats are ring-fenced for representation from North Nottinghamshire College Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service, the District Council and the one the subject of this report, representing the County Council.

Statutory and Policy Implications

8. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, Crime and Disorder and those using the service. Where such implications are material, they have been described in the text of the report.

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that a County Councillor be nominated to the Board of The Crossing, Worksop.

Richard Hodge
Service Director, Community Safety, Regeneration and Protection

Legal Services' Comments [IR 6.2.08]

The Administration Committee has delegable authority at Part Three, Section 8.4 of the Council's Constitution to approve the appointments to outside bodies relating to functions of Council.

Strategic Director Resources (Financial Comments)

There are no direct financial implications. (DD 30/01/08)

Background Papers Available for Inspection

The Crossing - Company Articles and Memorandum of Association

Electoral Divisions Affected

Worksop West