



Ward: St Marys

Key Decision: No

Ropetackle Trust

Report by the Chief Executive

1.0 Summary

1.1 This report seeks financial support for the Ropetackle Trust in the sum of £15,000.

2.0 Background

2.1 The Ropetackle Trust was established in 2003 to run the Ropetackle Centre, Shoreham by Sea, a community arts facility promoted and procured by the Council as part of the 106 agreement for the redevelopment of the Ropetackle site.

2.2 The Trust is a registered charity run by local volunteers and seeks to provide a varied range of events in arts, music and cultural activity.

2.3 From its early beginnings it has sought to gain experience, expertise and to develop and test a wide programme. Using the experience gained it has steadily improved its programmes, marketing and publicity although it has still yet to achieve full financial sustainability.

2.4 The Trust has made a request for financial assistance to prevent it from having to declare a loss at its financial year (June 2011) and clearly it would be perilous for all parties concerned for it to be declared insolvent and make its trading position untenable.

2.5 Following discussions there is strong degree of confidence that a revised business model for the future will see the Trust at least break even and hopefully move into surplus in the coming years.

2.6 Against this background and also the Council's wish to promote the growth of voluntary organisations which play a key role in achieving the council's strategic aims, it is recommended that the reserves of £15,000 is released to the Trust – see paragraph 5.1 below.

3.0 Proposal

3.1 The proposal is to provide a one-off grant to the Ropetackle Trust to ensure financial viability as outlined above. This will be for this year only and this will be made clear to the Trust.

4.0 Legal

- 4.1 The Council has the discretionary power to give grants to promote the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of any part of its area pursuant to s 2 of the Local Government Act 2000.

5.0 Financial implications

- 5.1 The Joint Strategic Committee approved the use of £15,000 from under spend being placed in reserves for support to Ropetackle on the 27 June 2011 subject to a further more detailed report being considered by the Cabinet Member for Health, Safety & Wellbeing.

6.0 Recommendation

- 6.1 The Cabinet Member is recommended to use this released £15,000 funding from reserves to fund the proposed grant to Ropetackle Trust.

Local Government Act 1972

Background Papers:

None

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Schedule of other matters

1.0 Council Priority

1.1 Aim 4: To Support and contribute to the health, safety and wellbeing of the area

2.0 Specific Action Plans

2.1 B) Develop a co-ordinated approach to providing sport, leisure, recreational and arts activities.

3.0 Sustainability Issues

3.1 Detailed in the report through the proposed funding to help achieve financial stability for the centre

4.0 Equality Issues

4.1 Not specifically in this report but the use of arts by this centre for people with disabilities is recognised.

5.0 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

5.1 Not specifically in this report but the use of arts to reduce crime and disorder is recognised

6.0 Human Rights Issues

6.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

7.0 Reputation

7.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

8.0 Consultations

8.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

9.0 Risk Assessment

9.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

10.0 Health & Safety Issues

10.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

11.0 Procurement Strategy

11.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

12.0 Partnership Working

12.1 The proposal supports partnership working with the Centre and the promotion of arts in the district.