



Ropetackle Trust and Ropetackle Centre – Future Funding

Report by the Chief Executive of Adur District Council

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the arrangements for the making of a grant to the Ropetackle Trust in the sum of £20,000 per annum for 2 years for the years 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 to assist in the appointment of a professional manager for the Ropetackle Centre.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 21 June 2012, the Joint Strategic Committee met to consider a report by the Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee which had reviewed the operation of the Ropetackle Trust and Ropetackle Centre. The committee resolved as follows:

- i) That the Council do not provide any further funding to the Ropetackle Trust for ordinary operational running costs;
- ii) That if further funding is considered in the future by the Council it should be on a project basis only, ring fenced and not relate to operational running costs and conform with Adur District Council's criteria for grant applications;
- iii) That the Council write to the Trust setting out the amended recommendations from the report;
- iv) That the Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources would meet with the all of the trustees as a matter of urgency to deliver the Committee's recommendations, and set out the Council's position;

Recommendations of strategic importance were also considered but as part of the exempt section of the Joint Overview & Scrutiny report.

- 2.2 Councillor Parkin and Councillor Dunn, together with the Chief Executive, Peter Latham and Regeneration Manager, Clare Mangan, met with the Chair of the Ropetackle Trust, Martin Allen on the 9 November and considered in depth the new Ropetackle Business Plan. This was tested and its proposals and programme examined and the Members concluded that its proposals would lead towards an economic and operationally sustainable future.

- 2.3 Members concluded that this was the best offer available and that the proposals set out in the Business Plan would lead towards an economic and operationally sustainable future. It was not intended that financial support would be continued by the Council beyond March 2014.
- 2.4 Members were agreed that this would also provide a sound basis for attracting Arts Council funding going forward after that time. It was recognised that the Adur district was generally under-funded by the Arts Council so the possibility of obtaining Arts Council funding in partnership with the Ropetackle Trust was a very good prospect.
- 2.5 The Ropetackle Business Plan contained the key appointment of a Professional Manager as it had been successfully introduced at other centres. In order for this to take place the Council would need to make a grant of £20,000 per annum for 2 years. The Ropetackle Trust confirmed that the Council's nominated representative would be involved in the appointment and recruitment.
- 2.6 It was noted that Councillor Carol Albury would be the council's nominee to attend Board meetings to act as both a critical friend and as the Council's advisor.
- 2.7 Martin Allen confirmed that there were two new representatives on the Board of Trustees to strengthen both the numbers and quality of advice and talent. He also confirmed that a representative from the education sector, currently Louise Swann, Head Teacher of Buckingham Park Primary School should attend for all relevant Board meetings involving education.
- 2.8 He further confirmed that the Trust's Amended Articles were now registered and that he would be supplying them to the Council and these have since been received.
- 2.9 The Ropetackle Trust confirmed that it would further broaden its appeal beyond Shoreham by Sea to make it more accessible to all residents of the Adur district.
- 2.10 Martin Allen confirmed that the Trust had already agreed working with partner providers including many voluntary and community groups and was in discussion with the Lions.

3.0 Proposal

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Council grant funds to the Ropetackle Trust in the sum of £20,000 per annum for 2 years for the years 2012-2013 and 2013-2014.
- 3.2 It was not intended that financial support would be continued by the Council beyond March 2014.

4.0 Legal

- 4.1 s2 Local Government Act 2000 empowers the local authority to do anything which they consider is likely to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of the area. Providing assistance to the Ropetackle Trust is likely to improve the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of the Adur District.

4.2 s19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allows the local authority to provide recreational facilities as it thinks fit and that includes the power to provide assistance of any kind. This would include the provision of a grant to the Ropetackle Trust to assist in the appointment of a professional manager for the Ropetackle Centre.

5.0 Financial implications

5.1 The funding is not currently contained within the budget of the council. Consequently, funding for this grant is to be released from the Capacity Issues Reserve.

6.0 Recommendation

6.1 In consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources the Leader is recommended, taking all factors into account, to make a grant of 2 years for the years 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 to assist in the appointment of a professional manager for the Ropetackle Centre.

6.2 The Leader is recommended to release £20,000 per year (2012/13 and 2013/-14) from the Capacity Issues Reserve.

Local Government Act 1972

Background Papers:

Joint Strategic Committee papers 21 June 2012
Ropetackle Business Plan

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Schedule of other matters

1.0 Council Priority

1.1 Supporting and improving the local economy. Promote and support community events.

2.0 Specific Action Plans

2.1 Granting of £20K per annum for the years 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 to support the Trust's work and to be part of the appointment process for a professional manager for the Ropetackle Centre.

3.0 Sustainability Issues

3.1 Matter considered but no issues identified.

4.0 Equality Issues

4.1 Matter considered but no issues identified.

5.0 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

5.1 Matter considered but no issues identified.

6.0 Human Rights Issues

6.1 Matter considered but no issues identified.

7.0 Reputation

7.1 Matter considered but no issues identified.

8.0 Consultations

8.1 Matter considered but no issues identified.

9.0 Risk Assessment

9.1 Matter considered but no issues identified.

10.0 Health & Safety Issues

10.1 Matter considered but no issues identified.

11.0 Procurement Strategy

11.1 Matter considered but no issues identified.

12.0 Partnership Working

12.1 This is a key partnership in providing an arts and cultural offer to the whole of the Adur district.