



REPORT TO GARIOCH AREA COMMITTEE - 27 JUNE 2017

GARIOCH AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET – ADDENDUM to item 11.

1 Recommendations

The committee is recommended to (in addition to recommendations 1 to 4) agree the award of £10,000 towards the improvement of the Westhill Old School and Schoolhouse buildings in order to meet the Care Commission's Standards for out-of-school care premises.

2 Background / Discussion

2.1 Westhill Old School and Schoolhouse

Westhill Old School and schoolhouse are situated on Westhill Drive in Westhill. They are currently used to accommodate a number of community groups including SensationALL, which is a third sector organisation providing services to young people with disabilities, families and others. These services include training in inclusive practices and diversity. At present all user groups pay a rental income to Aberdeenshire Council, however, SensationALL successfully applied for a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) of the buildings and this was approved by Garioch Area Committee. CAT is a four stage process and the transfer of the Old School and Schoolhouse is at Stage 3, which relates to agreeing the long lease, looking at the asset and finalising the handover.

2.2 The buildings are old and there are a number of issues relating to the fabric of them. These include damp, repairs to the roof and internal ceilings, upgrading of toilets and looking at a variety of health and safety measures.

SensationALL has plans to invest significant amounts of money in upgrading the building and built this into the business case submitted as part of the CAT process. SensationALL's business plan includes offering not only current services but also out-of-school care. This will help them to provide a vital additional service to the community but also to have a sustainable future and invest in the facilities.

2.3 With this in mind SensationALL has been working with the Care Commission to identify what needs to be done to ensure the building meets the required standard. Recently, the need to provide out-of-school care in Westhill has become more acute. A private provider has closed a nearby facility, and SensationALL has received many queries from parents about their plans to offer this service. If funding can be secured to carry out the upgrading outlined above it is possible that a service could be up and running by August 2017. Discussions are ongoing with Education and Children's Services officers and the Developer's Obligations team to ascertain if other funding streams are available. However, the award of £10,000 would allow for some immediate work to be carried out to meet the most urgent requirements. There are clear benefits for all stakeholders if this can be done, and it should be noted that as part of the CAT, SensationALL is required to offer and manage the facility for the benefit of the wider community. Therefore, Area

Committee is recommended to agree the award of £10,000 towards the improvement of Westhill Old School and Schoolhouse. The project meets the criteria for Area Budget. It provides support for tackling inequality, supports economic development, will improve the appearance of an old building in the community and will help to make the case for further funding from external sources.

- 2.4 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Corporate Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and have no comments to add.

3 Scheme of Governance

- 3.1 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section B.6.3 in Part 2A, List of Committee Powers in the Scheme of Governance, as it relates to the authorisation of expenditure from the Garioch Area Committee budget.

4 Equalities, Staffing and Financial Implications

- 4.1 The Garioch Area Committee budget for 2017/18 is £105,000, £35,358.28 has already been committed. The remaining balance is £69,641.72.
- 4.2 If the above applications totalling £26,856.51 are approved, this will leave a balance of £42,785.21 to allocate.
- 4.3 An Equalities Impact Assessment is attached because if the funding is agreed there will be a positive impact on groups with protected characteristics.

Maria Walker, Director of Education and Children's Services

Report prepared by Douglas Milne, Garioch Area Manager
22 June 2017

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Stage 1: Title and aims of the activity (“activity” is an umbrella term covering policies, procedures, guidance and decisions).	
Service	Education and Children’s Services
Section	Garioch Area Committee
Title of the activity etc.	Area Budget 27 June 2017
Aims of the activity	Allocate funding towards improving Old School and Schoolhouse in Westhill.
Author(s) & Title(s)	Douglas Milne, Garioch Area Manager

Stage 2: List the evidence that has been used in this assessment.	
Internal data (customer satisfaction surveys; equality monitoring data; customer complaints).	CAT processes and discussions. SensationALL business and building plans. Aberdeenshire Council surveys and information about the building.
Internal consultation with staff and other services affected.	With ECS and Property Services, and through the Garioch Community Planning Officer and Group.
External consultation (partner organisations, community groups, and councils).	With SensationALL staff and Board members.
External data (census, available statistics).	N/A
Other (general information as appropriate).	N/A

Stage 3: Evidence Gaps.	
Are there any gaps in the information you currently hold?	No

Stage 4: Measures to fill the evidence gaps.		
What measures will be taken to fill the information gaps before the activity is implemented? These should be included in the action plan at the back of this form.	Measures:	Timescale:

Stage 5: Are there potential impacts on protected groups? Please complete for each protected group by inserting "yes" in the applicable box/boxes below.				
	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unknown
Age – Younger	Yes			
Age – Older	Yes			
Disability	Yes			
Race – (includes Gypsy Travellers)			Yes	
Religion or Belief			Yes	
Gender – male/female	Yes			
Pregnancy and maternity			Yes	
Sexual orientation – (includes Lesbian/ Gay/Bisexual)			Yes	
Gender reassignment – (includes Transgender)			Yes	
Marriage and Civil Partnership			Yes	

Stage 6: What are the positive and negative impacts?

Impacts.	Positive (describe the impact for each of the protected characteristics affected)	Negative (describe the impact for each of the protected characteristics affected)
Please detail the potential positive and/or negative impacts on those with protected characteristics you have highlighted above. Detail the impacts and describe those affected.	Out-of-school care will benefit younger people by providing a safe and secure space for such activities to take place.	
	The facilities currently accommodate some community user groups that tend to be for retired people – again, by upgrading the facility it will make it more attractive for such groups to participate with consequent wellbeing outcomes.	
	Disability – this will help to provide and expand activities for SensationALL service users and their families. Current services are limited until the building can be improved and activities expanded.	
	Gender – parents will gain the benefits of out-of-school care and this can only be good for male and female parents alike.	

Stage 7: Have any of the affected groups been consulted?

If yes, please give details of how this was done and what the results were. If no, how have you ensured that you can make an informed decision about mitigating steps?	Yes – through SensationALL.
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Stage 8: What mitigating steps will be taken to remove or reduce negative impacts?

These should be included in any action plan at the back of this form.	Mitigating Steps	Timescale

Stage 9: What steps can be taken to promote good relations between various groups?

These should be included in the action plan.

Stage 10: How does the policy/activity create opportunities for advancing equality of opportunity?

As described in section 6, a variety of groups with protected characteristics will benefit and the wider community uses for the facility will promote inter-generational and inclusive approaches.

Stage 11: What equality monitoring arrangements will be put in place?

These should be included in any action plan (for example customer satisfaction questionnaires).

Stage 12: What is the outcome of the Assessment?

Please complete the appropriate box/boxes	1	No negative impacts have been identified –please explain.
	No protected characteristics group will be adversely affected by the changes.	
	2	Negative Impacts have been identified, these can be mitigated - please explain. * Please fill in Stage 13 if this option is chosen.
	3	The activity will have negative impacts which cannot be mitigated fully – please explain. * Please fill in Stage 13 if this option is chosen

* Stage 13: Set out the justification that the activity can and should go ahead despite the negative impact.

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Stage 14: Sign off and authorisation.

Sign off and authorisation.	1) Service and Team	ECS Garioch Area team		
	2) Title of Policy/Activity	Area Budget allocation (if appropriate)		
	3) Authors: I/We have completed the equality impact assessment for this policy/activity.	Name: Douglas Milne Position: Area Manager Date: 22/6/17 Signature:	Name: Position: Date: Signature:	
		Name: Position: Date: Signature:	Name: Position: Date: Signature:	
	4) Consultation with Service Manager	Name: Date:		
	5) Authorisation by Director or Head of Service	Name: Douglas Milne Position: Area Manager Date: 22/06/17	Name: Position: Date:	
	6) If the EIA relates to a matter that has to go before a Committee, Committee report author sends the Committee Report and this form, and any supporting assessment documents, to the Officers responsible for monitoring and the Committee Officer of the relevant Committee. e.g. Social Work and Housing Committee.			Date:
7) EIA author sends a copy of the finalised form to: eia@abdnshire			Date:	
(Equalities team to complete) Has the completed form been published on the website? YES/NO			Date:	