

# **APPENDIX D**

## **WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **EXECUTIVE - 2 SEPTEMBER 2008**

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#### **Title:**

**DISCASS - REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY CONTINGENCY FUNDING FOR  
2008/09**

**[Portfolio Holder: Cllr B J Morgan]  
[Wards Affected: All]**

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#### **Summary and purpose:**

This report sets out a request for emergency financial assistance for DisCASS for 2008/09 to assist the organisation to refocus its activities and place it on a sounder financial position to sustain the organisation for the future.

The request is for funding of £5,000 to be met by a supplementary estimate.

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#### **Environmental implications:**

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

#### **Social / community implications:**

The proposal in the report would help sustain an organisation which has its core focus on addressing issues of inequalities for more vulnerable members of our society. The organisation currently employs two members of staff and is supported by a number of volunteers. Waverley would be supporting an organisation that helps promote social cohesion and enabling it to refocus its activities in partnership with other organisations to be sustainable in the longer term.

#### **E-Government implications:**

There are no e-government implications arising from this report.

#### **Resource and legal implications:**

A one-off supplementary estimate of £5,000 for 2008/2009 is required if the recommendation is agreed.

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## **Introduction and background**

1. DisCASS is a voluntary organisation formed in October 1981 to promote the full social inclusion into mainstream society of all people with impairments, their carers and family members. Based in Godalming, it provides a number of services to support and assist disabled people; seeks to adapt to meet their needs as they arise; represents their concerns at local and national statutory agency committees and any other appropriate forum and provides a friendly and caring atmosphere in which people can speak freely about matters which concern them.
2. Since its beginning, DisCASS has relied on grant funding and fundraising activities. In recent years, the organisation has lost key members of its management and has been unable to submit the required information for funding applications resulting in loss of grant. As a result it has seen a sharp reduction in its reserves to a level where it could fail.
3. Cllr Hubble, appointed by Waverley as its representative on DisCASS, has been helping the organisation urgently review its operating arrangements, business plan and procedures. He has met with officers to discuss options for the organisation for the future. As part of this, officers have outlined clearly what was needed if the organisation were to have a hope of survival and the requirements of funding bodies in terms of clear structures, business plans, and monitoring information.
4. DisCASS has responded by drawing together the detailed information as requested and has asked that Waverley assist the organisation through the transition to become a viable and valuable support organisation to a key segment of the Waverley community. The assistance identified by officers is a one-off financial grant, together with the continued management support of Cllr Hubble.
5. It is apparent that in order to survive, the organisation needs to:-
  - a. Secure immediate financial support
  - b. Raise its profile
  - c. Consolidate the recent operational economies instigated by Cllr Hubble and establish effective financial management.
6. DisCASS realises that if it is to survive as a successful charity, it has to adopt a more professional approach to the way it is run. A number of changes have already been introduced. The team of volunteers and employees are working hard to adapt to the changes that have been made and they are keen to improve upon the valued service that they provide to the disabled in Waverley and Guildford.
7. The forward vision includes DisCASS offering more services to meet client needs; improving its public standing, and potentially changing the location of the office base in Godalming. In the short term, however, the main concern is to ensure that the organisation has sufficient money to survive until secure sources of funding are established.

## **Conclusion**

8. The managing committee of DisCASS has agreed to work towards implementing the changes recommended and introduced by Cllr Hubble to put itself on a sounder basis for the future and it is recommended that Waverley provides an emergency one-off grant of £5,000 for 2008/09 to enable DisCASS to consolidate the work it has done to date; to continue in operation in the short term and until more sustainable funding has been secured for the future.

## **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Executive:

1. notes the work done by officers and members to put DisCASS on a sounder basis for the future;
2. wishes DisCASS success for the future in supporting and advocating the needs of a key segment of Waverley's community; and
3. agrees to approve a supplementary estimate of £5,000 to provide emergency funding to assist DisCASS, to be conditional on the DisCASS board agreeing to implement changes recommended by Waverley's representative, Cllr Hubble, to place the organisation on a sounder financial footing for the future.

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## **Background Papers (SDoCS)**

Correspondence and associated documents from Cllr Julian Hubble on behalf of DisCASS dated June 2008.

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