

APPENDIX G

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 2ND DECEMBER

Title:

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2008/09 - CRANLEIGH ARTS CENTRE

**[Portfolio Holder: Cllr Mike Band]
[Wards Affected: All Cranleigh Wards]**

Summary and purpose:

To consider the request from Cranleigh Arts Centre to support a capital expenditure in 2008/09.

How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

Environment: If approved the improvement to the windows will reduce heat loss from the building thereby reducing CO₂ emissions.

Leisure: If approved this will update our leisure facilities

Equality and Diversity Implications:

There are no direct equality and diversity implications relating to this report.

Resource/Value for Money implications:

There are no resource/value for money implications other than the grant, which if approved would reduce capital resources for the 2009/10 capital programme.

Legal Implications:

There are no direct legal implications relating to this report

Background

1. At its meeting in September, the Executive identified an underspend in this year's capital programme and reviewed schemes which would be in next year's programme with the purpose of bringing the spend forward into 2008/9. The Executive agreed £119,000 of schemes for release; all of these schemes relate to Waverley's assets. Having allocated £119,000 there is an amount remaining of £12,500.
2. At the meeting Cllr Mrs Savage asked about the possibility of Cranleigh Arts Centre being able to receive funds under this initiative. The Executive noted her request and agreed to the principle of the scheme being submitted for further consideration. The scheme, as detailed below, has been submitted by Cranleigh Arts Centre.

3. The Board of the Cranleigh Arts Centre decided in its July meeting to investigate the costs of refurbishing the Studio. This room, 13m long by 5½m wide, is currently used for painting classes and storage of equipment, but after improvements to make it a really multi-purpose space, could be utilised much more intensively (as is the rest of the Arts Centre) thus improving the financial viability of the Centre and the range of services provided, and adding a valuable space for the use of the community in Cranleigh.

“The room is light and airy, ideal for (in addition to painting classes):

- *Exhibitions;*
- *Presentations, society and business meetings;*
- *Drama and dance rehearsals and small-scale workshops (we now have a dancer-in-residence as well as our drama workshops). Dance and drama is an increasing part of our work with younger people, and their leaders are keen to use the Studio space;*
- *Yoga, tai-chi, pilates. These classes are selling well and we would like to expand them.*

The following outlines our intentions, to improve utilisation of the Studio:

- *Adding window blinds so that the Studio can be used for performances and meetings which require projection, and for use in the strong summer sun;*
- *Providing large storage cupboards at one end of the room for easels and painting tables and chairs (adults’ and children’s) when not needed (currently they are stored in the room and are thus visible). Offsite storage is not feasible because the equipment is used several times a week;*
- *Replacement of the windows, including the metal frames, to make the room warmer (it is the coldest room in winter because the frames do not fit). Sealing could be a cheaper alternative;*
- *Sanding and varnishing the floor, which is otherwise suitable for dance;*
- *New equipment: tables, chairs, mirrors;*
- *Extending the wall of the Arts Centre pottery for storage of pots in various stages of preparation. This means more space available in the Studio;*
- *More controllable lighting, essential for meetings, workshops and yoga classes.*

This “project” has been designed as a series of almost independent pieces of expenditure. This enables us to be flexible and proceed as funds allow. We have ballpark figures and are at the stage of seeking quotations for the work, which we believe, can be done in the current financial year. The sub-projects have been prioritised into the following list:

<i>Business Priority</i>	<i>Sub-project</i>	<i>Ballpark costs</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>Window blinds</i>	<i>£2,000</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>Storage cupboards</i>	<i>£6,000</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>Window replacement</i>	<i>£7,500</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>Sand and revarnish floor for dance and performance</i>	<i>£4,000</i>

2	<i>New equipment: tables and chairs for meetings and performances</i>	<i>£2,000</i>
3	<i>New equipment: mirrors for dance and drama</i>	<i>£1,000</i>
3	<i>Extend wall of Pottery</i>	<i>£3,600</i>
3	<i>Lighting, with spots, able to be controlled</i>	<i>£5,000</i>

Cranleigh Arts Centre's business is doing well. But we know we can achieve greater exploitation of the Studio space, making us more robust financially and adding greater value to the community. "

Conclusion

4. This scheme is different to the other schemes identified to benefit from the underspend, which were considered and provided for in that whilst Cranleigh Arts Centre is owned by Waverley Borough Council, the Arts Centre has a 99 year lease which is fully repairing i.e. they are responsible for all works to the building, not Waverley Borough Council. A more appropriate source of funding would have been the community partnership fund, which has now been terminated. Going forward, funds such as provided for in a Section 106 planning agreement might be more appropriate for this scheme, however Cranleigh Arts Centre is a valuable partner who provides important services to the community. It currently receives £36,420 in annual revenue support and whilst a grant would not result in any revenue savings, it would improve facilities at the Centre.

Recommendation

The Executive is asked to consider this request and whether they would like to make any funds available.

Background Papers (DCEx)

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

CONTACT OFFICER:

Name: Paul Wenham

Telephone: 01483 523237

E-mail: paul.wenham@waverley.gov.uk