

HOCKLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE – REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report appraises Members of the response received from Hockley Parish Council in respect of the above.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A report was presented to the Members of this Committee held on 14 January 2003 in respect of the above.
- 2.2 The report drew to Members' attention the costs incurred by the Hockley Community Centre Association in respect of illegal occupation of the land by travellers. A copy of that report and minute 11/03 is attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.3 It was resolved that this Council would contribute £3,000 towards the costs incurred by the Association on condition that Hockley Parish Council also contribute £1,500.
- 2.4 This decision was conveyed to the Parish on 21 January. It was considered at their Council meeting held on 27 January and their response is contained in a letter dated 6 February 2003.

3 RESPONSE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

- 3.1 The Parish Council has expressed concern that a decision of this nature was taken prior to any consultation with the Parish taking place. As a consequence, whilst supporting the partnership principle, the Parish has not made any budgetary provision in 2003/4 for an item of this nature. There is, therefore, no funding available by which they can assist the Community Association.
- 3.2 It is understood that the Parish Council has conveyed this information to the Hockley Community Centre Association.

4 THE WAY FORWARD

- 4.1 In accordance with Minute 11/03, there should now be no contribution made to the Hockley Community Centre Association. This report has been brought to Committee in order to ensure that Members are aware of the Hockley Parish Council response on this issue.
- 4.2 In view of the above, the Committee is asked to give a view as to whether or not the decision contained in Minute 11/03 should stand.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The resource implications are set out in the original report attached as Appendix 1.

6 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Parish implications are set out in the original report attached as Appendix 1.

7 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

to determine a view on this matter in light of the response from Hockley Parish Council.

Roger Crofts

Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)

Background Papers:

Letter from Hockley Parish Council dated 6 February 2003.

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APPENDIX 1**11 HOCKLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE – REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) on an application for financial assistance from the Hockley Community Centre Association in respect of costs incurred following the occupation of land by travellers.

Responding to Member questions, Officers advised that the Authority had no insurable interest in this matter and it was highly unlikely that the Association's insurance policies would provide cover for the type of costs incurred.

Whilst recognising that the Authority would not want to set a precedent, Members were mindful that the Association had been faced with problems over which it had little or no control.

On a Motion moved by Councillor P F A Webster and seconded by Councillor P K Savill, it was:-

Resolved

That, on this occasion and subject to Hockley Parish Council agreeing to a contribution of £1,500.00, a grant of £3,000.00 be paid to the Hockley Community Centre Association in respect of costs incurred by the Association following the occupation of land by travellers.
(CD(F&ES))