

MATCHED FUNDING REQUEST	
APPLICANT	Locks Heath Free Church
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	<p>A matched funding bid has been received from Locks Heath Free Church requesting £40,000 towards the cost of extending and refurbishing the Church's community facilities.</p> <p>Locks Heath Free Church is a popular Baptist church with a large and supportive congregation. In addition to the religious activities of the Church, it also accommodates a busy pre-school and a thriving youth club.</p> <p>The Church's 'Build' project focusses on improving these community facilities. It incorporates the development of a dedicated pre-school suite, the inclusion of a new activity / sports hall, the creation of a new youth suite, the upgrading of the kitchen area, the creation of a large auditorium and the development of a room available for the community to hire. The project also includes additional parking on site.</p>
PROJECT COSTS	The total project cost is £4.66 million.
PROJECT FUNDING	The Church has raised £1,661,000 to date. They have a further £1,051,600 in confirmed pledges, grant applications and vacant property, and have secured a mortgage for £1.7m. The remaining £248,000 is anticipated to be raised through further donations and events.
COMMUNITY BENEFITS	<p>The renovated and extended facilities will improve the potential for more varied activities for both the pre-school and the youth club due to the development of dedicated areas.</p> <p>The creation of a multi-purpose room, auditorium and an activity hall increases the opportunities for the community to access local facilities, which are often fully booked in neighbouring community centres. In turn, this will help the Church imbed further into the community.</p>

## APPENDIX A

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS</b>	There are no significant environmental benefits.
<b>LINKS TO THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PRIORITIES</b>	<p>This application is consistent with the Council's role as "a partner", where possible, to actively collaborate with other providers within the local area.</p> <p>Councillor Miss Pankhurst, one of the Ward Councillors, is supportive of the application and the Executive Leader has given "in principle" support subject to consideration by the Executive.</p> <p>Ward Councillor Englefield has, to date, not provided his views.</p>
<b>PROJECT RISKS</b>	The project would be managed by the Church.
<b>RECOMMEND</b>	<p>That the Executive gives consideration to making a matched funding award of up to £40,000 to this application, subject to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The remainder of funding being in place.</li><li>2. Receipt of all Local Authority approvals.</li><li>3. The Church signing a Community Fund and Community Use Agreement, stipulating that the new facilities will be accessible to all the community.</li></ol>