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APPLICANT

3rd Portchester Scout Group

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The 3rd Portchester Scout Group operates out of the Cobham Hall in White Hart Lane, Portchester. They are a youth organisation that caters for over 160 children from the age of 6 to 18 who take part in Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers.

The Portchester Scout Group also includes a sea scout section where young people can learn and take part in water-based activities involving their selection of boats and kayaks.

The hall that they operate from is in need of significant refurbishment to:

- upgrade the toilet and kitchen facilities.
- improve accessibility within the hall for those with a disability.
- to increase storage space and
- provide new floor coverings.

PROJECT COSTS

The total project cost is £40,000

PROJECT FUNDING

The scout group have allocated £20,000 from their reserves and are seeking £20,000 from the Community Fund to allow the project to proceed.

The Scout Group have allocated a further £5,000 from their reserves as a contingency should this be required.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The premises are subject to a lease agreement with the Trustees of the Portchester Parish Hall. The lease restricts the use of the hall to "scouting purposes only" The community benefit is therefore restricted to the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers scouts, that operate out of the hall who will continue to be able to use the hall following its refurbishment.

Despite the restrictions in the lease, there will be other community benefits as a number of third parties will be able to continue to benefit from the hall, e.g.:

- The local police who teach safe community practices.
- St Johns Ambulance.
- British Rowing Association for their work in conjunction with the Sea Scouts.

It is hoped that the provision of improved facilities for those with a disability will not only provide a venue suitable for young people with a disability, but also attract adult volunteers with a disability and raise awareness and understanding generally of disability issues.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

There are no significant environmental benefits arising from the project.

LINKS TO THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PRIORITIES

This application is consistent with the Council's role of "a partner", as identified in the Leisure Strategy, to continue, where possible, to actively collaborate with other providers within the local area to maximise potential opportunities for sport.

The ward councillors are supportive of the application and proposals and the Executive Member for Leisure and Community has given "in principle" support subject to consideration by the Executive.

PROJECT RISKS

The project would be managed by the trustees who would appoint a sole contractor to carry out all of the works.

RECOMMEND

That the Executive gives consideration to making a matched funding award of up to £20,000 to this application, subject to:

- 1. The remainder of funding being in place.
- 2. Receipt of all Local Authority approvals.
- 3. That the applicant continues to abide by the relevant clauses in their lease with the Trustees of the Portchester Parish Hall.