

Agenda Item

REPORT OF Head of Communities and Place

To: Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Internal)

Subject: The Plough Art Centre

Date: 16/03/23

Reference:

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To scrutinise the decision of Community and Resources Committee, in January 2023, to agree to a contribution of £10,000 per year for three years towards the running costs of the Plough Arts Centre

1. INTRODUCTION

The decision of Community and Resources Committee to approve a contribution of £10,000 per year for three years to the Plough Arts Centre is now the subject of call in by the Chair of Internal Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2. REPORT

The Plough Arts Centre report and supporting documentation that was presented to Community and Resources Committee is attached as Appendix 1.

The minutes of the Community and Resources Committee meeting record the following in relation to the debate on the item:

The purpose of the report, presented by the Head of Communities & Place, was to update Members on the Plough Arts Centre and to consider whether it is possible to provide the organisation with revenue support.

Following an enquiry from Councillor Christie, the Head of Communities & Place clarified the position regarding the bid submitted by the Plough to become a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) and to receive core support of £120,000 per year for three years. The bid set out that the organisation would receive Local Authority Grants, but it did not state which Local Authority.

It became apparent during the discussion that Members were wanting to provide core funding to support the organisation but were also mindful of the Council's financial position.

The following proposals were put forward;

It was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Laws that the Council provide a contribution of £10k per year for three years.



Councillor Christie proposed to support the Plough and for each Councillor to give £250 from their Councillor Grants for three years and that would give a total of £9k. There was no seconder for this motion.

Councillor Hodson proposed an amendment to Councillor Brights motion –

“To contribute £10k this year and to review the position this time next year.”

This motion was seconded by Councillor Hurley.

Councillor Newton proposed a minimum of £10k for three years and this to be reviewed on an annual basis. There was no seconder to this motion.

Following further discussion, a vote was taken on the amendment proposed by Councillor Hodson and seconded by Councillor Hurley.

(Vote: For 4, Against 7) The motion was lost.

A vote was then taken on the proposal by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Laws and -

Resolved:

That a contribution of £10k per year for a period of three years be approved.

(Vote: For 9, Abstentions 2) The motion was carried.

3. IMPLICATIONS

Legal Implications

As set out in C&R report

Financial Implications

As set out in the C&R report

Human Resources Implications

As set out in C&R report

Sustainability Implications

As set out in C&R report

Equality/Diversity

As set out in C&R report

Risk Management

As set out in C&R Report

Compliance with Policies and Strategies

As set out in the C&R report



Ward Member and Leader Member Views

As set out in the C&R report

3. CONCLUSIONS

After much debate, Community and Resources Committee resolved:

That a contribution of £10k per year for a period of three years be approved.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members scrutinise the resolution, as set out above, of Community and Resources Committee on the 30th January 2023.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Consultations: Chief Executive, Head of Legal and Governance, Finance
Manager and S151 Officer

Contact Sean Kearney

Officer:

Background

Papers:

