

To: City Executive Board

Date: 26 November 2008 **Item No:**

Report of: Interim Head of Property & Facilities Management

Title of Report: Improvements to Risinghurst Community Centre

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To seek approval to spend the additional budget approval of £10,000 for improvements to Risinghurst Community Centre.

Key decision? No

Executive lead member: Councillor Ed Turner/Councillor Antonia Bance

Report Approved by: Executive Director, City Regeneration
Councillors Bance and Turners

Finance: Sarah Fogden, Head of Finance

Legal: Jeremy Thomas, Head of Legal

Policy Framework: Stronger and more inclusive communities.
Tackle climate change and promote environmental resource management.

Recommendation(s): To grant approval to the additional budget allocation of £10,000 for improvements to Risinghurst Community Centre and authorise officers to proceed with spending this funding as indicated in paragraph 2 of the report.

Background

1. At the Council meeting on 30 June 2008, budget amendments were approved for a number of different initiatives. One of these was to allocate £10,000 for improvements to Risinghurst Community Centre.

Proposals

2. Discussions have now been held with the Community Association and priorities for this funding have been set. These are:
 - Replacement windows. Existing windows are single glazed, timber construction which are rotten and draughty. The proposals are to replace these with modern double glazed units which will improve the energy efficiency of the building by reducing heating costs in the main hall. There will also be benefits in user comfort that will help the Association to promote the use of the hall. The City Council will gain the benefit of reducing the maintenance backlog on the building and reducing future maintenance liabilities.
 - Upgrading the kitchen area. This work will include the installation of stainless steel work surfaces in order to meet Health & Safety requirements and environmental health requirements which will enable the Association to make better and more extensive use of the kitchen thereby aiding the viability of the Community Centre.

Financial Implications

3. There are two main financial implications to this work. The first will be the benefit to the City Council in reducing the maintenance backlog on the property and reducing future maintenance liabilities. The second benefit will be to the Community Association in the reduction in their heating bills as a result of the improved thermal efficiency of the new windows. A third, less tangible benefit will be to the Community Association in that the improvements should help them to better market the facility and aid the viability of the Centre.

Legal and Staffing Implications

4. There are no particular legal or staffing implications to this proposal.

Recommendations

5. City Executive Board is RECOMMENDED to:
Grant approval to the additional budget allocation of £10,000 for improvements to Risinghurst Community Centre and authorise officers to proceed with spending this funding as indicated in paragraph 2 above.

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Background papers: None
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