

**Brierley Hill Area Committee – 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2009**

**Report of the Interim Director of Finance**

**Richardson Hall Charity**  
**Application for Grant**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To consider the following request for an application for funding from the Richardson Hall Charity.

**Background**

2. The Richardson Hall Charity (the Charity) was formed from the estate left by William Hayden Richardson. At the time, a donation of £1,000 was made, the interest on which was to be utilised in assisting in the upkeep of Richardson Hall, Wordsley and the attached dwelling house known as the Cottage. Any funds not used for these purposes could be applied by the Trustees of Richardson Hall as they saw fit. The Council is the Trustee for the Charity and has delegated control of the Trust to the Members of Brierley Hill Area Committee.

- 3 Application by Wordsley And District Community Association.

The Wordsley and District Community Association (the Association) is a registered charity based at Richardson Hall where their aims are to bring together people of the neighbourhood to benefit the community at large through providing learning and activity classes, support for uniformed groups and room hire facilities.

The Association is intending to refurbish the downstairs room in the Cottage with kitchen and toilet facilities, to provide additional accommodation for community activities and for hire. At present the toilet facilities are on the first floor and are not suitable for disabled people to use. The cost of the refurbishment has been estimated at £12,968.

The Association is applying for a contribution from the Charity of £6,000, with the intention of asking for £5,000 to be funded by Brierley Hill Area Committee Capital Allocations, and anticipate raising the remainder themselves.

The accounts of the Association for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 show an operating deficit for the year of £416. Within its unrestricted funds, the Association had net current assets of £6,766 with £9,050 being held as cash at bank and in hand.

## **Finance**

4. The Richardson Hall Charity fund currently stands at £8,148 due to accrued interest which is available for distribution. There have been no applications made or grants paid out for a number of years.

## **Law**

- 5 Section 139 of the Local Government Act, 1972 empowers the Council to accept, hold and administer gifts of property, where it enables them to discharge any of their functions, and where the gifts are for the purposes of benefiting the inhabitants of their area.

The conditions under which a gift is to be administered, are contained in the Deed creating the Trust, and any subsequent schemes made by the Charity Commission.

The law relating to Charitable Trusts is contained in various Acts, the main ones being the Charities Acts 1992 and 1993, and the Trustee Investment Act, 1961.

## **Equality Impact**

- 6 The Trusts have been set up to benefit the public of the Borough or certain geographical areas of the Borough as outlined in the Deeds of Gift. The proposal takes into account the Council's Equal Opportunities policies.

## **Recommendation**

- 7 It is recommended that: - Subject to the remainder monies being secured by the Association, the Committee approve the application for funding in the sum of £6,000 as detailed in paragraph 3.



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**Interim Director of Finance**

**Contact Officer:** Diane Robbins – Principal Accountant ext 4816.

[diane.robbins@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:diane.robbins@dudley.gov.uk)

James Croft – Group Accountant ext 5365;

[james.croft@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:james.croft@dudley.gov.uk)

## **List of Background Papers**

Wordsley and District Community Association Accounts.

Trust deeds for Richardson Hall.

Application by Wordsley and District Community Association.