

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>HOUSING &amp; COMMUNITY SERVICES</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2008</b>	<b>CATEGORY: DELEGATED/</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>S BATCHELOR/M ROSEBURGH</b>	<b>DOC:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>SOUTH DERBYSHIRE ARTS PROJECT</b>	<b>REF:</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE:HCS07</b>

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### **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 To note the award of £35,000 from the Arts Lottery Fund and recommend to Finance and Management Committee the appointment of a temporary part-time Arts Development Officer to deliver a successful South Derbyshire Arts Project.

### **2.0 Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 To explain the background and rationale for a bid to the Arts Lottery fund for a South Derbyshire Arts Project and seek approval for the appointment of a temporary part-time Arts Development Officer based on funding secured from that bid.

### **3.0 Detail**

- 3.1 In a strategic context both the Council's Corporate Plan and the Local Strategic Partnership's Community Strategy contain aims, references and actions indicating the importance of artistic and cultural opportunities to South Derbyshire. These include enhancing the quality of life, increasing and improving arts facilities and opportunities, increasing dance opportunities for young people, supporting Swadfest, increasing access to leisure and recreational facilities particularly for young people and in rural locations, increasing social activities, engaging young people, increasing opportunities for a healthier lifestyle and promoting South Derbyshire as a visitor attraction.
- 3.2 Additionally Leisure and Community Development service planning has been informed by a series of needs analysis studies. These include the Junior needs survey highlighting dance and drama as a requirement in rural locations; the youth needs survey that highlighted dance as an activity that teenage girls wished to take part in. Plus the early results from the elderly peoples survey supports anecdotal evidence from the Over 50's Forum that the development of dance and music activities are needed by this sector of the population.

- 3.3 South Derbyshire is currently the only district within Derbyshire that does not benefit from a dedicated post supporting arts development. Despite this the Leisure and Community Development service has commissioned or supported several arts based projects for the benefit of local residents. These have included Swadfest, (a major event at Swadlincote that draws together a range of art forms annually), a pilot dance project across the district and Liberation Day - a community safety event that uses arts and culture to help deliver a safety message. In addition the Council supports the work of the Derbyshire Arts Partnership including the development of the Derbyshire Arts web site, the Live and Local events programme, the Derbyshire Artists Marketing Grant Scheme, Derbyshire Dance Network, and the countywide Creative Industries and Cultural Events strategies. It is anticipated that this project will strengthen the Council's role within the Partnership and allow an increased contribution to its priorities of health and young people.
- 3.4 Based on the above evidenced need, demand and strategic context the Arts Council were engaged in a dialogue to explore the potential for funding to support arts work in the district. Discussions indicated an application based on an arts development worker to take forward arts work linked to new and existing initiatives such as community dance, health, events, sport and the new arena at Rosliston, called 'The Glade In The Forest', would be welcomed. Unfortunately due to severe cuts in Arts Council funding it was also advised that a small-scale request for funding was the only one likely to be successful. Further to this dialogue an application was made for £35,000 of Arts Lottery funding in 2007 and notification of a successful bid was received in June 2008.
- 3.5 The project has three main strands
- Dance and young people
  - Combined arts
  - Arts based activity for older people
- 3.6 Under Dance and young people the project will deliver programmes of dance workshops across the district, link the Positive Activity for Youth Partnership via the Young People's panel to the LSP and LAA, develop links between arts, dance and play, provide accredited training opportunities, and link with the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership to develop distraction activities for young people who may otherwise become engaged in anti-social or illegal activities.
- 3.7 Under Combined arts the project will provide leadership for arts based activity across the district, support the cultural events group, support Swadfest and promote use of the new "Glade in The Forest" stage and performance space at Rosliston Forestry Centre.
- 3.8 Under Arts based activity for older people the project will deliver a range of arts based activities across the district, organise dance sessions (some with additional social activities e.g. tea dances), support the arts/cultural input into Liberation Day and develop inter generational arts activity.
- 3.9 The overall project budget of £151,000 submitted in the application showed contributions from the School Sports Partnership, Derbyshire PCT, Safer South Derbyshire Partnership, the Youth Opportunities Fund, anticipated income from events and revenue and in-kind support from the Council. The breadth of

contributions reflects the partnership approach to the project and recognises how arts activity can impact on many other aspects of life. All these contributions save the events income is confirmed.

- 3.10 The Arts Council funding of £35,000 will specifically support the employment of a part-time temporary post of Arts Development Officer. Subject to Council approval it is anticipated that recruitment would commence in early Autumn with a view to starting project delivery as soon as possible thereafter.
- 3.11 As the post is short term funded consideration has been given to a forward strategy that contains several elements. It is hoped that successful delivery will convince existing funding partners to contribute further. Ongoing income from events will support future work. Some elements of the project such as community dances and an events programme at “The Glade” can either become self-financing or self-supporting. Capacity building will be an integral part of the project. The Arts Development Worker supported by the Community Partnership Officer will identify and pursue further funding opportunities. Most importantly an ongoing dialogue will be entered into with the Arts Council to identify and lobby for further support.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The Council’s contribution to the overall project comes from existing budgets. Other partner contributions are confirmed. Funding from the Arts Lottery will cover the cost of employing a part-time temporary Arts Development Worker.

#### **5.0 Corporate Implications**

- 5.1 The appointment of an Arts Development Worker will make a valuable contribution to the realisation of the Council’s Corporate Plan and strengthen its cultural services offer.

#### **6.0 Community Implications**

- 6.1 The South Derbyshire Arts project will impact positively on the community through it’s rural interventions, through targeting younger and older sections of the population, by increasing service provision, participation, accredited training, cultural events and by improving physical well being and mental health. The nature of the projects work has been informed via extensive community consultation. Further community consultation, capacity building and community engagement will be embedded into the projects ongoing work.

#### **7.0 Conclusions**

- 7.1 The appointment of a temporary part-time Arts Development Worker will allow a risk free opportunity to develop and expand cultural activity across the district.

#### **8.0 Background Papers**

- 8.1 Grant application forms

