



POLICY AND RESOURCES – 13th JUNE 2013

ST COMBS HALL : FUNDING

1. Recommendation

1.1 The Committee is recommended to –

- (i) approve additional funding of up to £55,790 to allow the hall to be constructed.**

2. Background

2.1 Following a fire which destroyed the previous hall the St Combs Hall Association (SCHA) has been working towards building a new, fit for purpose community hall in the village. The project is at an advanced stage and is supported by a full business plan. Support for the hall project is based on considerable consultation with the community and has been taken on by a volunteer committee. The village has few other community facilities.

2.2 To date SCHA has raised £742,449 in funding from a variety of sources, as shown in the table below –

Insurance Payment	£329,070
LEADER	£124,500
Aberdeenshire "Towns and Villages" Award	£100,000
Sale of house bequeathed to SCHA	£ 89,000
Green Energy Trust	£ 25,000
Fundraising	£ 74,879
TOTAL	£742,449

2.3 The work for building the hall was put out to tender by the SCHA in January 2013. Three companies were invited to tender and the lowest tender was for £690,000 inclusive of project fees. Additional works due to fire regulations and building warrant give a complete building cost of £798,239. The latter cost has recently been offset by a £25,000 contribution from the Green Energy Trust. The shortfall is £55,790.

2.4 The project is at a crucial stage and must be started immediately if it is to be delivered. Through enhancing funding allocated through the 100 days pledge initiative the funding gap can be bridged and the hall built. The Association will continue to seek other funds to enhance equipment and activities at the Hall.

- 2.5 There were no revenue implications for the Council in the running of the former hall and there is no expectation of support to the new building. Similarly SCHA understand that no further capital funding will be made available. This will allow the project to proceed immediately, allowing time limited LEADER funds to be drawn down.
- 2.6 The Head of Finance and the Monitoring Officer have been consulted and their comments contained within the report.

3. Equalities, Staffing and Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no staffing implication relating to this report and the financial implications are covered above.
- 3.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and has identified the following positive impacts on one or more of the protected characteristics;
- through providing local based facilities, there will be a positive impact on the health of all but particularly younger and older people, and for those with a disability;
 - through promoting a socially inclusive and cohesive approach to the use of the hall, there will be a positive impact through the fostering of good relations;
 - No negative impact has been identified
- 3.3 The balance of £55,790 will be met from within the Six Key Areas for Development funding as latest monitoring reports are forecasting there may be funding capacity capable of being reallocated to existing projects.

Colin Mackenzie
Chief Executive

Report by Chris White
Area Manager Buchan

22 May 2013

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Stage 1: Title and aims of the activity (“activity” is an umbrella term covering policies, procedures, guidance and decisions).	
Service	Chief Executive
Section	Area Manager
Title of the activity etc.	St Combs Hall Project
Aims of the activity	Support building of a community facility by the St Combs All Association (SCHA) through bridging the funding gap.
Author(s) & Title(s)	Chris White, Area Manager, Buchan

Stage 2: List the evidence that has been used in this assessment.	
Internal data (customer satisfaction surveys; equality monitoring data; customer complaints).	SCHA business plan and community engagement questionnaire.
Internal consultation with staff and other services affected.	Early discussion with Sports and Leisure colleagues from Aberdeenshire Council.
External consultation (partner organisations, community groups, and councils).	Discussion with Buchan East Community Council.
External data (census, available statistics).	N/A
Other (general information as appropriate).	Discussion with and plans for Buchan Area Community Planning Group.

Stage 3: Evidence Gaps.	
Are there any gaps in the information you currently hold?	No.

Stage 4: Measures to fill the evidence gaps.		
What measures will be taken to fill the information gaps before the activity is implemented? These should be included in the action plan at the back of this form.	Measures:	Timescale:

Stage 5: Are there potential impacts on protected groups? Please complete for each protected group by inserting "yes" in the applicable box/boxes below.				
	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unknown
Age – Younger	X			
Age – Older	X			
Disability	X			
Race – (includes Gypsy Travellers)			X	
Religion or Belief			X	
Gender – male/female	X			
Pregnancy and maternity	X			
Sexual orientation – (includes Lesbian/ Gay/Bisexual)			X	
Gender reassignment – (includes Transgender)			X	
Marriage and Civil Partnership			X	

Stage 6: What are the positive and negative impacts?		
Impacts.	Positive (describe the impact for each of the protected characteristics affected)	Negative (describe the impact for each of the protected characteristics affected)
Please detail the potential positive and/or negative impacts on those with protected characteristics you have highlighted above. Detail the impacts and describe those affected.	Health benefits for a range of people in the community, including the young and elderly.	
	Social inclusion in a rapidly growing community with benefits to age (fostering good relations) and promoting equality of opportunity.	

Stage 7: Have any of the affected groups been consulted?	
If yes, please give details of how this was done and what the results were. If no, how have you ensured that you can make an informed decision about mitigating steps?	Through the SCHA consultation.

Stage 8: What mitigating steps will be taken to remove or reduce negative impacts?		
These should be included in any action plan at the back of this form.	Mitigating Steps	Timescale
	N/A.	

Stage 9: What steps can be taken to promote good relations between various groups?	
Through the provision of advice , broadening audiences to include older people and enhancing the environment through the identified projects.	
These should be included in the action plan.	

Stage 10: How does the policy/activity create opportunities for advancing equality of opportunity?	
Through providing a local sports, recreation and community hub it will encourage different community groups and users to take advantage of local facilities, close to home. Particularly the young and elderly who may have transport or mobility problems will benefit..	

Stage 11: What equality monitoring arrangements will be put in place?	
These should be included in any action plan (for example customer satisfaction questionnaires).	As part of the business plan the SCHA will carry out customer satisfaction and usage surveys. Through the Community Planning Group these will be monitored on a regular basis.

Stage 12: What is the outcome of the Assessment?		
Please complete the appropriate box/boxes	1	No negative impacts have been identified –please explain.
	There are no negative impacts arising from this project. It is to build a community based facility and this does not involve the removal of funding or facilities from other groups.	
	2	Negative Impacts have been identified, these can be mitigated - please explain. * Please fill in Stage 13 if this option is chosen.
	3	The activity will have negative impacts which cannot be mitigated fully – please explain. * Please fill in Stage 13 if this option is chosen

* Stage 13: Set out the justification that the activity can and should go ahead despite the negative impact.

Stage 14: Sign off and authorisation.

Sign off and authorisation.	1) Service and Team	Chief Executive		
	2) Title of Policy/Activity	Funding for SCHA		
	3) Authors: I/We have completed the equality impact assessment for this policy/activity.	Name: Chris White Position: Area Manager Date: 22 May 2013 Signature:	Name: Position: Date: Signature:	
		Name: Position: Date: Signature:	Name: Position: Date: Signature:	
	4) Consultation with Service Manager	Name: Date:		
	5) Authorisation by Director or Head of Service	Name: Colin Mackenzie Position: Chief Executive Date:	Name: Position: Date:	
	6) If the EIA relates to a matter that has to go before a Committee, Committee report author sends the Committee Report and this form, and any supporting assessment documents, to the Officers responsible for monitoring and the Committee Officer of the relevant Committee. e.g. Social Work and Housing Committee.			Date: 22 May 2013
	7) EIA author sends a copy of the finalised form to: eia@abdnshire			Date
(Equalities team to complete) Has the completed form been published on the website? YES/NO			Date:	

