

Wards Affected:

All Wards

MK PLAY ASSOCIATION EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES GRANT

Responsible Cabinet Member: Councillor Nolan (Cabinet member for Children and Families)

Report Sponsor: Michael Bracey (Corporate Director - People)

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Executive Summary

This report recommends a one-off exceptional circumstances grant of £25,000 to be made to the MK Play Association to enable the organisation to implement changes to its business model.

1. Recommendation

1.1 That a one-off exceptional circumstances grant of £25,000 be made to the MK Play Association.

2. Issues

2.1 Milton Keynes Play Association (MKPA) has been working with the community for around 45 years. The organisation offers three core services: play, training and the provision of resources. These three together allow the MK Play Association to encourage the development of children and young people through play in the local community. Local organisations such as Parish Councils, schools, community and faith groups benefit from the services of the MK Play Association.

2.2 Against a backdrop of reductions in public funding and rising costs, the trustees of organisation, led by a reinvigorated board, has set about implementing changes to its business model to generate additional income and improve efficiency so that it can continue to be sustainable into the future. However, this process will take time and there is a risk that the MK Play Association will not have time to complete this work prior to its funds being exhausted. The Association does not have reserves and is currently using borrowing to fund the essential costs of the organisation.

3. Options

- (a) Do nothing, with the risk the organisation might close.
- (b) Provide an exceptional circumstances grant.

4. Implications

4.1 Policy

The Council Plan 2016-2020 sets out our ambition for Milton Keynes to be a healthy city together with a commitment to make Milton Keynes to be an active, vibrant place with people living long, healthy and fulfilling lives. Play is central to children's physical, mental, social and emotional health and wellbeing.

4.2 Resources and Risk

The recommendation is for a one off grant. There is no on-going revenue commitment. The funding is provided 'at risk' in that it is possible the organisation fails to modernise and secure further work and as a result has to close. As a result it is critical that the MK Play Association works hard to urgently identify alternative sources of income, strengthen governance and build reserves and as a condition of this grant we will require a written commitment from the MK Play Association to this effect.

N	Capital	N	Revenue	N	Accommodation
N	IT	N	Medium Term Plan	N	Asset Management

4.3 Carbon and Energy Management

None..

4.4 Legal

The Council can make a payment to any charitable organisation under its general wellbeing powers.

4.5 Other Implications

None.

N	Equalities/Diversity	N	Sustainability	N	Human Rights
N	E-Government	N	Stakeholders	N	Crime and Disorder

Background Papers:

Information about the MK Play Association can be found at www.mkpa.co.uk. The Report of the Directors and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2016 can be found here: <https://beta.companieshouse.gov.uk/company/03051975>