

MEETING: 13/05/2015

Ref: 12165

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Making London More Inclusive

Hillingdon South Society for Mentally Handicapped Children

Adv: Joan Millbank

**Amount requested: £80,000
(Revised request: £100,000)
Amount recommended: £100,000**

**Base: Hillingdon
Benefit: Hillingdon and other
NW boroughs**

The Charity:

The charity (also known as Mencap Hillingdon South) has been in operation since 1970. It provides leisure activities including a hydrotherapy/swimming pool to benefit the health and wellbeing of children and adults with learning disabilities and their families. It operates from two premises leased from Hillingdon Council and located within Hillingdon Manor School for children with autism.

The Application:

The charity is seeking a capital grant towards the second stage refurbishment of the pool, known as the Jubilee Pool. A single storey side and front extension together with improved internal access works will take place within phase two. Improvements include redesign of changing rooms to create two larger single-sex units, a dedicated accessible changing room, refurbished accessible toilet facility, accessible showers and a lobby area to accommodate the arrival and departure of pool users and their carers. The enclosure roof has been replaced in phase one.

The Recommendation:

Many disabled people do not have the opportunity or the confidence to use mainstream swimming facilities. There are no other local hydrotherapy pools available in this area. The Jubilee Pool's comparatively small size and restricted use via dedicated bookings provides a safe and secure environment for its users and their carer. The charity has raised £140,000 capital funds from Sport England and local charitable trusts to pay for stage one, which was completed in August 2014. £224,400 is required to fund phase 2 extension and further improved facilities. The grant request has been adjusted to take into account the true cost of phase two, which was not fully known when the application was first submitted in January 2014.

£100,000 towards stage two refurbishment on condition that all required funds are raised and planning consent is secured.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
09/01/2014	Revised application to be submitted as a capital bid under Investing in Londoners, 'Making London More Exclusive'.

Background and detail of proposal

The Jubilee Pool was opened in 1977 by Roy Castle after a group of parents of children with special needs successfully fundraised to build the pool, to offer therapeutic, educational and leisure opportunities for their children. The pool is used every day for hydrotherapy purposes as well as general swimming. Current users include four special schools whose pupils have physical, learning and / or mental health issues; an adults arthritic group; two groups of adults with learning disabilities living in nearby care establishments and a swimming group run by volunteers for

families with a member with a physical and/or learning disability. Approximately 300 children from other local schools also use the facility during term time. An estimated 2,000 people of all ages currently use the pool each year, of which approximately 800 are children and adults with a physical and/or learning disability. Assuming the improvements are made to the pool, an estimated 18,800 children, young people and adults with learning and other disabilities, their carers and other local school children are expected to benefit.

An access audit has been carried out and report provided. Access recommendations have been incorporated into the design and future build. Planning permission for stage two is required; an application has to be submitted.

The charity is very small and is run by three trustees. The provision of the pool represents the main activity of the charity and is run by a sub-committee which, with volunteers, manages all associated tasks including cleaning and water testing. They fundraise through events and grant applications to raise annual revenue and now capital funds. Swimming fees provide most of the charity's income. Costs include insurance and utility bills. All user groups engage their own trained life guards.

Financial Information

The higher level of income and expenditure shown in the year to 31st July 2014 is due to the inclusion of stage 1 costs and income, both amounting to £53k, relating to the refurbishment of the swimming pool. The second and final stage of the development is forecast to cost £224k. This cost has not been included in the current year 2014/15 forecast and, as at 31 January 2015, no income had been secured towards this cost. However, this application to CBT is towards stage 2 costs and the charity advises that it is pursuing a number of other grant applications to raise the balance of £124k.

Forecast income in the current year 2014/15 is £65,375 of which £21,135 (32.3%) has been secured through grants and donations by 31st January 2015, while £33,542 (51.3%) is expected through fees for groups' use of the pool.

The charity does not have a formal reserves target but has built up free reserves to a relatively high level as shown in the table. The charity advises that it has built up this level of reserves to meet the cost of significant repairs and refurbishment needed at its social centre amounting to £55k. Once these works have been completed, which it expects to be in 2015, reserves should fall to approximately £38k, equating to 9.4 months' worth of current year expenditure which is considered reasonable.

Year end at 31 July	2012/13 Independently Examined	2013/14 Independent Examined	2014/15 Current Year Forecast
Income and Expenditure	£	£	£
Income	60,677	114,659	65,375
Expenditure	45,049	109,269	48,590
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	11,746	897	8,285
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	3,882	4,493	8,500
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	15,628	5,390	16,785
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	25.8%	4.7%	25.7%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	7,955(13.1%)	3,230 (2.8%)	Not detailed in budget
Free unrestricted reserves			
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	80,151	84,930	£93,215
How many months' worth of expenditure	21.4	9.3	23
Reserves Policy target	0	0	0
How many months' worth of expenditure	0	0	0
Free reserves over/(under) target	-	-	-