

The Highland Council

Resources Committee - 26 August 2015

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| Agenda Item | 22 |
| Report No | RES/78/15 |

The ARCHIE Foundation – New Highland Children’s Unit, Raigmore Hospital – Application to Capital Discretionary Budget, 2015/16

Joint Report by Director of Finance and Inverness City Area Manager

Summary

The ARCHIE Foundation (ARCHIE) is the official charity of all child health across the North of Scotland, supporting children and their families whenever they access medical care. The first £1m target of the new Children’s Unit at Raigmore (the Unit) has been fully funded including a contribution of £0.150m from the Inverness Common Good Fund. This report invites Members to consider an application to the Capital Discretionary Fund of £0.050m towards the second appeal to raise a further £1m to complete the Unit.

1. Background

- 1.1 In March 2011, ARCHIE launched a £1m Raigmore Appeal to initially refurbish and redevelop the Children’s Ward in Raigmore Hospital to create an environment for the care of young children, that is stable for all ages, stimulates the inquisitive minds of youngsters, promotes healing and acts to take the fear out of being in Hospital.
- 1.2 The Appeal originated in January 2010 when ARCHIE was approached by leading Paediatric Surgeon and ARCHIE Trustee, Professor George Youngson. Using his experience across Scotland, Professor Youngson was able to advise how improvements could be made. ARCHIE have confirmed that this was not a reflection on the standard of care within Children’s Services but that the physical environment within which that care was given could be improved.
- 1.3 NHS Highland has given written assurance that the planned improvements could not be funded from their Capital Programme. However, any improvements made will be included with the NHS Highland Maintenance Programme.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 Due to the Success of the Appeal, which reached its target in just over 18 months, ARCHIE agreed to raise a further £1m to create a Highland Children’s Unit enabling almost all childrens’ services to be integrated within the hospital, with their own entrance, reception and parking areas.
- 2.2 So far £0.500m has been raised towards the second £1m. The request to the Capital Discretionary Budget is for funding of £0.050m to help ARCHIE reach their new target of £2m for all the work proposed at Raigmore.
- 2.3 All sums received by this appeal will be applied to the construction of the new Unit at Raigmore Hospital.

- 2.4 The ARCHIE Foundation New Highland Children's Unit will support every child in Inverness and ensure that there is a world-class facility there for them when they are sick or injured. In addition, recognising the significant distances many families travel to attend the Children's Ward if their child is too seriously ill to be treated within their own community, the new Children's Unit will enhance the support for families from across the Highlands.
- 2.5 The project will support the creation of quality jobs in the Highlands; and support an economically vibrant City of Inverness, which is a key theme of the Inverness City Vision.
- 2.6 The Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996, makes for the Council to consider contributing to expenditure incurred in connection with activities which contribute to the regeneration or development of an area. This includes providing or improving training, education facilities or health services for local people.

3. Implications

3.1 Climate Change/Carbon Clever and Equalities

The project will have positive climate change/Carbon Clever impacts as the buildings will be refurbished to modern standards in accordance with Building Regulations. Application of these regulations will also result in an improvement for those people with a disability.

3.2 Legal Implications

The development will provide an improved service to people living in the Highlands, create employment (both in terms of construction and potentially some increase, or, as a minimum, retention of existing jobs), and ensure a fit for purpose facility is created in Inverness for the City and the Highlands.

3.3 Resource Implications

The uncommitted balance on the Capital Discretionary Fund is currently £1.419m. The allocation of £0.050m can be accommodated from this Fund. The cost to the Council will also include the revenue cost of borrowing which is assessed at £5,000 per annum.

- 3.4 There are no other implications to highlight within the report.

Recommendation

Members are invited to consider awarding the project to create a new Highland Children's Unit at Raigmore Hospital, as detailed within the report, the sum of £0.050m from the Capital Discretionary Fund for the year 2015/16, subject to conditions at the discretion of the Director of Finance.

Designations: Director of Finance and Inverness City Area Manager
Date: 14 August 2015
Authors: Derek Yule and David Haas