

**REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 31 OCTOBER 2011**

**REPORT ON: DUDHOPE CENTRE – DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR, LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES**

**REPORT NO: 447-2011**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To seek agreement from Dundee City Council that it should part fund a Development Officer for the Dudhope Centre for a three year period.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that Dundee City Council agree to a contribution of £15,000 per year in each of the next three financial years commencing 2011/12, as its contribution to the establishment of a post of Development Officer for the Dudhope Centre.

2.2 The conditions on this grant are that the Management Committee:

- secures funding to match the City Council's offer of grant;
- works towards promoting the sustainability of the Centre as a social enterprise over the three year period for which financial support is being offered;
- actively encourages use of the Centre by the local community for adult learning, community groups, tenants' associations/residents' groups, and youth activities.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The cost of a Development Officer for Dudhope Centre, based on local authority grade 9, would be £33,434 to £37,181 (inclusive of superannuation and National Insurance) per annum.

3.2 Subject to match funding being secured, the City Council is asked to agree to a contribution of £15,000 per year (£5,000 in 2011/12, £15,000 in 2012/13, £15,000 in 2013/14 and £10,000 in 2014/15) towards the cost of such a post and to provide professional advice on the recruitment to this post. These costs can be met from contingencies in 2011/12 and will be included in the 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15 revenue budgets.

3.3 The Bharatiya Ashram, who operate the Dudhope Centre, have secured external funding of £10,000 for one year from a major charity and are actively seeking the remaining amount. They have had meetings with Creative Scotland who are considering a substantial development fund grant to the organisation.

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

4.1 The Dudhope Centre is based in the former primary school building in Dudhope Place. The building is leased on a peppercorn rent basis to the Bharatiya Ashram (Registered Charity SC027124) and they have been responsible for its operation and development over the last three years.

- 4.2 Through their efforts, and with support from Dundee City Council, the Bharatiya Ashram have raised in excess of £800,000 towards the restoration of the building as a centre for multi-cultural arts. For a period of time, they also received external funding for the position of Centre Manager. However, the temporary external funding has now come to an end and there is a need now to employ a Development Officer to continue improvement work, to increase usage and seek external funding.
- 4.3 The current programme of the Centre includes lunch clubs for elders from Dundee's minority ethnic communities, literacy classes, and a wide range of cultural activities (Appendix 1).
- 4.4 The Group has approached the City Council to ask for development assistance, given the targeted work they do to support the City's minority ethnic communities and to provide a venue for the promotion of multi-cultural arts. The Group is also in dialogue with Creative Scotland and other funders with the objective of creating a partnership approach to the funding of a Development Officer who would manage the centre, seek longer term funding and develop the programme operated by the Dudhope Centre, integrating it with other initiatives being taken forward within Dundee's Cultural Agencies Network.

## **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.
- 5.2 There are significant potential benefits for ethnic minority groups in the City.
- 5.3 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and will be made available on the Council website: <http://www.dundee.gov.uk/equanddiv/equimpact/>

## **6.0 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), and the Directors of Finance and Social Work have been consulted on the contents of this report.

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 Equality Impact Assessment.

**STEWART MURDOCH**  
**DIRECTOR, LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES**  
**19 OCTOBER 2011**

## **Bharatiya Ashram**

### **Dudhope Centre**

5 St Mary Place, Dundee, DD1 5RB  
tel: (01382) 220023  
email : ashram1@btconnect.com

#### **Introduction**

Bharatiya Ashram was established in 1995 to promote benefits for all, but primarily for ethnic minority clients of Dundee and surrounding areas. With an overall objective of improving the quality of life, the Dudhope Centre under the auspices of Bharatiya Ashram currently runs activities under the themes, Education, Health, Art, Social Initiatives and facilitates a wide range of other support services.

The Centre provides educational classes. On health issues the Centre provides Healthy Eating and Living initiatives, including a vegetarian lunch club. Dudhope Centre promotes Asian arts and culture and offers classes in Sitar, Tabla, Indian vocal performance and Dance. Art classes for the young and Life Drawings for adults, Arts Business Courses, Master Classes, Workshops etc. Yoga, Keep Fit sessions, Health Talks, Complementary Healing Services, Recreational Courses.

#### **Dudhope Centre Development**

We have obtained a 25-year lease on the large property to increase and extend the Ashram's existing services. The plans are to consolidate current services and provide a focus to increase, expand and introduce a range of support services within a centre which will service multi-ethnic and indigenous communities.

While the centre is open to all, the Ashram intends that the new facility will also become a wider ethnic centre, connecting the indigenous community with different cultures.

Dudhope Centre Development is fundamentally about changing people's skills, knowledge, abilities, self-confidence, image, relationships and health. The Centre will accelerate delivery of these issues by co-ordinating and developing voluntary skills and input. The new facility, will allow the Ashram to encourage a greater proportion of the indigenous population to participate is expected to expand. The Centre will also provide surgery services for support groups e.g. Debt Counselling, Health, Pensions, Recruitment and Guidance, Investment and Employment services.

#### **Sustainability**

The Centre is to be developed to service a wide range of client groups. The centre is intended to become sustainable through income derived from the activities which will range from: the rental of accommodation to other voluntary organizations or relevant service providers; to fees charged where arts activities and performances occur; to income based on public sector contracts.

## **CURRENT PROGRAMME**

### **Monday**

Healthy Eating Lunch Club - Chinese Cuisine 12:30pm - 2:00pm

### **Tuesday**

Zumba 6:30pm – 7:30pm

### **Wednesday**

English For Speakers of Other Languages 5:15pm – 7:45pm

English For Speakers of Other Languages 7:45pm – 9:00pm

(Run by Dundee City Council Adult Learning Team)

Art Classes

### **Thursday**

Bollywood Dance For Adults 7:30pm – 8:30pm

Zumba 6:15pm – 7:15pm

### **Saturday**

Indian Vocal 10:00am – 11:00am

American Tribal Belly Dance (Improvers) 10:45am - 11:25am

Tribal Fusion Belly Dance (Improvers) 11:25am - 12:35am

Tabla Drumming (every second Saturday) 12:00am – 2:00pm

Bollywood Dance for Children (3-8 yrs) 12:30am - 1:30pm

Healthy Eating Lunch Club - South Asian Cuisine 12:30am - 2:00pm

Egyptian Belly Dance (Improvers) 12:50am - 2:00pm

### **Sunday**

Indian Classical Dance for Children (3-8 yrs) 9:40am – 10:15am

Indian Classical Dance for Adults 10:15am – 12:00am

Indian Vocal 12:00pm - 1:00pm

Art Classes

### **Future Classes**

Sewing Class starting in November

Yoga Class starting in November