

<b>Name of Committee:</b>	Cabinet		
<b>Committee Date:</b>	8 November 2023		
<b>Report Title:</b>	Making Space - Motion Referred from Full Council on 20 September 2023		
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Patrick Lee, Executive Head of Housing and Communities		
<b>Cabinet Lead:</b>	Cllr Robinson, Cabinet Lead for Housing and Communities		
<b>Status:</b>	Non-Exempt		
<b>Urgent Decision:</b>	No	<b>Key Decision:</b>	No
<b>Appendices:</b>	None		
<b>Background Papers:</b>	Making Space Motion to Full Council		
<b>Officer Contact:</b>	Name: Patrick Lee Email: Patrick.lee@havant.gov.uk		
<b>Report Number:</b>	HBC/050/2023		

### Corporate Priorities:

Pride in Place.

### Executive Summary:

At full Council on 20 September 2023 a Motion was submitted by Councillor Redsull requesting that:

A) The explore financial capabilities to use £5000 per year for the next 5 years of Havant Borough Council money to support Making Space. And;

B) All members to agree that we prioritise this project for a bid onto the £150 million South Western Railways funding for local communities.

As this Motion required the Council to make a financial decision the Motion was referred to Cabinet.

Previously Making Space has been grant funded on two occasions by Havant Borough Council and both times Cabinet decisions were made to discontinue funding.

### Recommendations:

Cabinet recommends to Council to:

A. Decline funding for Making Space but reiterate the offer to support the organisation with assistance in kind.

B. Recommend to Making Space that they bid for funding direct from the South Western Railways funding for local communities, and other funding bodies. Reiterate the offer to support the organisation with assistance in kind, including supporting the application process if necessary.

## Introduction

- 1.1 Making Space is an arts-based charity located in Leigh Park, Havant.
- 1.2 The aims of the organisation are to make space for people and organisations involved in craft, through a programme of workshops and experiences that are co-created with community partners and through consultation with local people.

## 2.0 Background

- 2.1 In 2003 Cabinet agreed for the net rental income of £20,000 per annum from the Apex Centre to be allocated to supporting Making Space for core costs, however, in 2010 this decision was amended. It was considered that Making Space was now a mature organisation with strong corporate governance, professional management and a robust business plan. The Council amended the funding arrangement with Making Space to reduce funding over a period of no more than 4 years.
- 2.2 This tapering process over a maximum of four years gave Making Space time to review its business plan and operating costs. Negotiations were held at the time with the Making Space board and management together with Hampshire County Council who are also major stakeholders in this project to ensure that Making Space was able to manage the proposed grant reduction.
- 2.3 It should also be noted that the Council's Community Manager continued to grant fund Making Space from an arts budget that was held at that time.
- 2.4 In 2015 the council ceased grant funding to other organisations and a further decision was made by a former Cabinet Lead to cease grant funding to Making Space. Notification was sent to the then Director of Making Space in December 2016 giving a period of 5 years notice of

the council's intention, with the grant reducing by 20% per annum with effect from financial year 2017/18 reducing to zero by 2021/22.

- 2.5 On 13 February 2023, following a request for funding of £12k per annum for three years, the then Executive Head for Regeneration and Community wrote to Making Space to confirm that no further funding would be made by the Council but that the Council would continue to award Making Space the additional 20% discretionary business rate relief and can offer in kind support by Officers from the Regeneration & Community Service.

### **3.0 Options**

- 3.1 Maintain the Council's decision that no further funding will be provided to Making Space but that the Council will continue to offer support in kind.
- 3.2 Provide funding, that, even if it is for a relatively small sum, is not included in the Council's revenue budget for this year and for subsequent years.

### **4.0 Relationship to the Corporate Strategy**

- 4.1 The aims and objectives of Making Space aligns with the Pride in Place Council Corporate objective.

### **5.0 Conclusion**

- 5.1 The Council does not have funding in place to support Making Space as proposed and previous Cabinet decisions have been to no longer provide financial support to the organisation.
- 5.2 This report outlines the risks and recommendations.
- 5.3 The Council remains ready to offer support in kind to Making Space.
- 5.4 Members are asked to review this report and provide a decision to officers.

### **6.0 Implications and Comments**

- 6.1 Section 151 Officer Comments: Members should be aware that the Council has limited financial resources. The first call on these is to

support the delivery of statutory services and then the fund the discretionary services that they feel best support the Council's corporate strategy and corporate priorities. Furthermore, spending commitments are usually made via the annual budget setting process where the Council is required by law to approve a balanced budget. This motion asks the Council to commit £25,000 worth of Council spending over the next 5 years, and to do so outside of the annual budget setting process. To support the funding request within the motion, members would have to be comfortable that by doing so, they are preventing these funds from being spent in other service areas or with other 3rd parties/charities and that this charity's objectives support the Council's corporate strategy. Due to the current financial climate across local authorities, and the need to protect vital services, I support the recommendations in this report to reject the motion to fund £25,000 to the Making Space charity.

6.2 Monitoring Officer Comments:

Constitutionally, the Notice of Motion shall be considered by Cabinet who shall make a recommendation to Council. Any financial commitments considered outside the budgetary framework need to be agreed by Full Council.

6.3 Legal Implications: The Legal Team shall be consulted on any agreement should funding be provided to Making Space.

6.4 Equality and Diversity: Making Space works with a diverse range of people in the Borough.

6.5 Human Resources: There is no predicted HR impact related to this decision.

6.6 Information Governance: There are no specific information governance implications relating to this decision.

6.7 Climate and Environment: There are no specific climate and environment implications related to this decision.

## 7.0 Risks

7.1 Failure to fund Making Space could present a risk to the organisation's sustainability.

7.2 A decision to fund Making Space as proposed would impact on the Council's revenue and reserves.

## 8.0 Consultation

8.1 Public and/or stakeholder consultation is not planned.

## 9.0 Communications

9.1 The Communication Team will be updated on the decision.

<b>Agreed and signed off by:</b>		<b>Date:</b>
<b>Cabinet Lead:</b>	Cllr Robinson, Cabinet Lead for Communities and Housing	30 October 2023
<b>Executive Head:</b>	Patrick Lee, Executive Head for Communities and Housing	30 October 2023
<b>Monitoring Officer:</b>	Jo McIntosh	31 October
<b>Section151 Officer:</b>	Steven Pink	30 October 2023