

<b>Report of</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Executive Member for Resources	Trustee Meeting	25 July 2017

## **AVONDALE ROAD, FORMER FREE LIBRARY TRUST FUND**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To seek approval for the distribution of income from the Charitable Trust in accordance with its objects.

### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2. That the sum of £17,928.73 be distributed to Chorley Little Theatre Company Limited to support the provision of new flooring at the Chorley Little Theatre.

### **BACKGROUND**

3. In 1992 the Council obtained consent of the Charity Commission to amend the objects of a registered charity using the proceeds of sale from the Avondale Road Library (previously known as the Free Library). The monies were to be held by the Council on trust for such charitable purposes for the general benefit of the inhabitants of Chorley as it thinks fit. Distributions could be made from the income from the proceeds only. Chorley Council is corporate trustee of the charity.
4. The charity makes grants to individuals and organisations in Chorley. This would include purposes beneficial to the community, i.e. which provide a betterment for the residents of Chorley. This can include an improvement to facilities to which the residents can use.
5. No distributions from the income were made last year (2016/17) and it was reported to Governance Committee in June 2017 that there was £17,928.73 held in balances capable of being distributed.

### **CHORLEY LITTLE THEATRE – THE REQUEST**

6. Chorley Little Theatre is owned and operated by the amateur dramatics group CADOS and is also home to a number of community groups including Chorley Youth Theatre and Chorley Empire Community Cinema. It is run entirely by volunteers.
7. Chorley Little Theatre are seeking funding to support a scheme of improvements to the Chorley Little Theatre facilities and building. The total cost is in the order of £115,000.
8. The works include improvements to the auditorium seating, replacement of the flooring and improvements to the pipe work for the heating system (replacing the old iron pipes with modern copper). Other required improvements include the replacement of the fire door, additional seating provision and making good decoration. The costs are estimated as

a. Seating	£52,000
b. Flooring	£40,000
c. Pipework	£15,000
d. Additional costs	£10,000

9. The Little Theatre have raised £67,000 through crowd funding of which £52,000 has been spent on the seating. Applications have been made to the Arts Council and to Asda for grant aid for the remaining works.
10. The Charity will award the sum of £17,928.73 as a grant to support the improvements to the flooring. The grant will be paid on receipt of invoices or other certification of completion of the works.
11. This request is for the benefit of the residents of Chorley and improves facilities that they can use. As such it falls within the objects of the trust and the Trustees can legitimately approve the distribution.

CHRIS MOISTER  
MONITORING OFFICER TO CHORLEY COUNCIL