

**COMMITTEE:** SOUTH EAST    **REF NO:** SEAC/18/11  
**DATE:** 18 JULY 2018  
**SUBJECT:** FUNDING REQUEST: KINETIC SCIENCE  
FOUNDATION SCHOOL WORKSHOPS  
**REPORT AUTHOR:** SIMON LANNING  
**HEAD OF SERVICE:** IAN BLOFIELD

***Short description of report content and the decision requested:***

This report requests that the South East Area Committee consider allocating £1,229.40 to the Kinetic Science Foundation toward the cost of a programme of 'School Science' workshops, to be at the Conservatory in Holywells Park or in schools. These activities are designed to engage school groups in hands-on science activities with the aim of promoting learning, good health and practical science skills in a fun and creative environment.

***List of Appendices included in this report:***

None

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***This report was prepared after consultation with:***

*Internal consultees*

*External consultees*

*Vicky Sorhaindo, Project Leader, Kinetic Science Foundation*

***The following policies form a context to this report:***

*(all relevant policies must also be referred to in the body of the report)*

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS AS REQUIRED BY LAW**

*(papers relied on to write the report but which are not published and do not contain exempt information)*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**OTHER HELPFUL PAPERS**

*(papers which the report author considers might be helpful – this might include published material)*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

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## 1. Introduction

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- 1.1 This report requests that the South East Area Committee consider allocating £1,229.40 to the Kinetic Science Foundation toward the cost of a programme of 'School Science' workshops at the Conservatory in Holywells Park. These activities are designed to engage school groups in hands-on science activities with the aim of promoting learning, good health and practical science skills in a fun and creative environment.

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## 2. Background

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- 2.1 The Kinetic Science Foundation is a Charity created in 2014 (Charity No [1160476](#)), to inspire and enthuse all children and young people to consider a career in Engineering, Science, IT and Maths. The Kinetic Science Foundation team shares its vision through 'outreach workshops' and 'roadshows' which are delivered in schools, libraries and public spaces.



**Figure 1 – Schoolchildren getting involved in the Crime Scene workshop**

- 2.2 The activities in schools are linked to the national learning curriculum and move learning out of the classroom setting, for example children have;
- visited the Kinetic Science crime scene, collected and analysed evidence to solve a presented crime.
  - dissected a (fake) animal to learn about digestion and
  - examined model bodies to learn about bodily processes.

- 2.3 Marquee 'roadshow' experiences including a tropical rainforest, archaeological dig, a Sensory Tent (which is used by Additional Needs Groups) and a doctor's surgery.
- 2.4 Other 'roadshow' events include mini exhibits and experiments at festivals, street fairs, and Brownie & Scout groups. The 'Lab in the Library' programme has been particularly well received in libraries across East Anglia. Kinetic Science created and hosted the first ever Suffolk Science Festival in Bury St Edmunds this February which engaged 1,500 people over two days (despite poor weather). In a little over three years' existence, nearly 90,000 people have accessed the project.
- 2.5 Last summer Kinetic Science launched 'Science in the Park' and it proved to be an extremely popular family activity for minimal cost. Kinetic Science Foundation is now proposing a project to promote science engagement for schoolchildren in South East Ipswich.
- 2.6 The proposal is to provide three 2-hour sessions for classes of up to 30 children. The target group would be year 4 classes from primary schools in the South East area. The sessions will be held at the Conservatory in Holywells Park. If individual schools have challenges accessing the Holywells Park venue, due to transport, staffing or timing for instance, the venue may be changed if necessary.
- 2.7 The session content will be a workshop developed for children in years 4 and 5 covering the curriculum heading 'Animals including humans' and with an emphasis on health and well-being. The school workshops will combine practical and scientific theory



**Figure 2 – Schoolchildren getting ready for the Pop-Up Planetarium**

- 2.8 Children will have the opportunity to test theories and make predictions, work as a team to complete experiments and learn how to use equipment accurately.

2.9 The workshops would be ideal for smaller schools with limited budgets, not usually be able to access such events. It is also hoped that the workshops will inspire and build confidence in teachers.

2.10 **The total amount requested from the South East Area Committee is £1,229.40**

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### **3. Relevant Policies and Area Action considerations**

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3.1 Building a Better Ipswich underlying principles:

- Priority 3: An Enjoyable Place to Live, Work and Study
- Priority 4: A healthy community.

3.2 Domains of Deprivation

- Education, Skills and Training

3.3 The project is aimed at children (age 8-10 years) and their families. The STEM based activities spark interest in science study, promote scientific dialogue between children & their parents and they can be continued at home. The workshops help encourage healthy lifestyles by developing understanding of bodily processes and exploring healthy eating.

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### **4. Options Considered / Under Consideration**

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4.1 **Option 1** – Approve the allocation of £1,229.40 to the Kinetic Science Foundation toward the costs of the ‘School Science’ at Holywells Park.

4.2 **Option 2** – Approve the allocation of a lesser amount than £1,229.40 to the Kinetic Science Foundation toward the same costs.

4.3 **Option 3** - Do not fund

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### **5. Consultations**

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5.1 The Kinetic Science Foundation consults with the Council’s Parks & Landscape team about its planned activities at Holywells Park. It also collects feedback from participants on its activities.

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### **6. Risk Management**

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6.1 The risks associated with the running of the ‘School Science’ workshops and related activities are owned by the Kinetic Science Foundation.

6.2 All the activities are designed by qualified primary and secondary science teachers to ensure quality and safety. They are tested and risk assessments are produced to manage and reduce risk. Only activities calculated as low risk are undertaken.

- 6.3 All staff are Disclosure & Barring Service checked and at least one member of staff for each session will hold a first aid certificate.
- 6.4 Schools are briefed on any potential allergens in activities and when required an alternative will be provided. Clear signage is placed at all activities to outline potential risks and allergens and this is explained in full to participants including those who will not understand written signs.
- 6.5 Classroom teachers will be present at the 'School Science Workshops'. Kinetic Science staff are present to demonstrate the activities as well as explain the science, promote scientific questioning amongst families and advise on correct use of practical equipment. Instruction sheets with supporting pictures are provided for all activities as well as teacher led explanations. Example pieces are also available at each activity station (where necessary) to provide a guide to complete the tasks.
- 6.6 The risks outlined here relate to the Committee funding of the group.

| <b>Risk Description</b>         | <b>Consequence of risk</b>  | <b>Risk Controls</b>   | <b>Probability of risk occurring taking account of controls<br/>(1: almost impossible - 6: very high)</b> | <b>Impact of risk, if it occurred taking account of actions<br/>(1: negligible - 4: catastrophic)</b> |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| Poor use or management of funds | Poor use of public funds  | Kinetic Science Foundation record keeping<br><br>Monitoring report | 2   | 2   |
| <b>Actions to mitigate risk</b> | The Kinetic Science Foundation is an established group with the experience of delivering sessions to contract and in managing funds & impact monitoring as part of its charitable status. |  |   |   |

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## **7. Environmental Impact Assessment**

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- 7.1 There is only a negligible impact on the environment expected from the proposed activities.
- 7.2 None of the activities outlined will use chemicals that cause harm to the environment or require specialised handling or storage. All waste produced will be disposed of appropriately.
- 7.3 The Kinetic Science Foundation aims to minimise environmental impact by limiting the use of plastic items and re-using where possible. Materials are recycled where possible.
- 7.4 The organisation has an Environmental Policy and Carbon Footprint Policy so staff are aware of their obligation to use materials wisely.

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## 8. Equalities and Diversity Implications

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- 8.1 The proposed activities are not anticipated to have a negative impact on any individual in respect of any of the protected characteristics as set out under the Equality Act 2010.
- 8.2 The activities are for children (8-10 years) and therefore restricted in respect of the age characteristic.
- 8.3 The Science in the Park related activities are open to all children from all backgrounds, and are suitable for wheelchair users as well as those who have partial sight. The kinaesthetic learning style is more accessible to people with English as an additional language.
- 8.4 Kinetic Science has an Equal Opportunities Policy and actively promotes diversity and equal opportunities regardless of race, social background, authenticity, religion and gender. It promotes positive role models of women in science, thereby encouraging girls to consider science based careers.

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## 9. Financial Considerations

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- 9.1 Regular income from school bookings provide core funding to the Kinetic Science Foundation, thereby reducing risk for this project. As a charity, the organisation does not extract profit and funds are used to cover staffing and resources costs.
- 9.2 The organisation plans to become self-funding by increasing workshop bookings. The fees for bookings will help subsidise community projects such as this.

| <b>School Science</b>   |  |        |
|---|--|--------|
| <b>Item</b>   |  |        |
| <b>Staffing</b><br>Two members of paid staff and two volunteers working for 7 hours each day. | £210 per day in staff costs x 3<br>£30 expenses for Volunteers x 3 | £720   |
| <b>Resources</b><br>Materials used i.e. paper, flour, paint, vinegar etc.                     | £50 per day  | £150   |
| <b>Equipment</b><br>Top up of equipment that may have been broken                             | £50  | £50    |
| <b>Advertising</b><br>Schools contact covered in admin time below.                            | -  | -      |
| <b>Travel costs</b><br>Mileage 3 return trips to Ipswich                                      | 22 miles x 6 journeys @ 45p per mile                               | £59.40 |
| <b>Admin</b><br>Risk Assessments, leaflet   |  | £250   |

|   |                  |                  |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| design, phone calls and emails, website entries |                  |                  |
|   | <b>Sub-total</b> | <b>£1,229.40</b> |

- 9.3 The total amount requested of the South East Area Committee budget is £1,229.40

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## **10. Legal Considerations**

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- 10.1 The Council has the power to make grants to community projects through the Area Committees. The Area Committees have delegated Executive powers and devolved budgets.
- 10.2 Area Committees have the power to award grants in accordance with part 3, section 2 of the Council's Constitution i.e. the Area Committee terms of reference.
- 10.3 The Kinetic Science Foundation is a registered charity with named posts, named bank account, business plan and year-end accounts. As such, it meets those requirements of the Area Committee Funding Protocol.

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## **11. Performance Monitoring**

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- 11.1 The Kinetic Science Foundation will complete the Area Committee funding monitoring submission, reporting the spending of the allocation against the budget set out in Section 9. The monitoring will also report to the committee what activities have been provided and the attendance
- 11.2 Evaluation forms for teachers and participating schools will be provided and analysed after each workshop to assess success. This will examine levels of enjoyment, learning and impact.
- 11.3 Children can also give feedback with a simple voting scheme of a coloured square of card into the box which best describes their experience.

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## **12. Conclusions**

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- 12.1 The Kinetic Science Foundation activity sessions have engaged children and families across Suffolk in fun science based learning. The activities have been successfully offered to schools across the region and to the public through Holywells Park in previous years. This year the organisation would like to extend the offer to schools in South East Ipswich that might not otherwise participate. For this reason the organisation is seeking funding for primary school class activities based at the Conservatory at Holywells Park.

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## **13. Recommendations**

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13.1 **This report recommends that the South East Area Committee consider the options set out in Section Four and decides the allocation of funding to the Kinetic Science Foundation for the Science in the Park programmes.**

13.2 Reason:

- To promote learning in STEM subjects.
- To promote Holywells parks to families
- To enhance access to learning in the South East Area