

**COMMITTEE:** CENTRAL AREA                      **REF NO:** CAC/22/07  
**DATE:** 7 SEPTEMBER 2022  
**SUBJECT:** FUNDING REQUEST – FUTURE FEMALE SOCIETY  
**REPORT AUTHOR:** LAURA COOLEDGE/SLOANE POTTER  
**SENIOR OFFICER:** JUSTIN JUPP

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

Future Female Society is seeking funding of £4,795 to deliver its Woman 2 Woman Radio project for migrants, refugees and asylum-seeking women living in Central Ipswich.

Woman 2 Woman Radio supports participants with English language and teaches them new skills in a safe and fun environment. By producing their own radio shows, migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women are given a voice in society and the opportunity to have their work shared on BBC Radio Suffolk.

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

- a) Appendix 1 - Completed Application Form

*This report has been prepared by Sloane Potter / Laura Cooledge*

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

*Internal consultees*

*External consultees*

*Kim Trotter, Founder of Future Female Society*

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

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

*Building a Better Ipswich 2017*

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**1. Item of business and issues for consideration**

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- 1.1 To consider the application of Future Female Society and decide whether to agree to:
- i) Fund the total amount requested;
  - ii) Fund a lesser amount to the amount requested; or
  - iii) Not fund any amount
- 1.2 The Committee will make its decision on the basis of whether the application meets the funding criteria and the funds available to the Committee.
- 1.3 [Future Female Society](#) exists to close the gap in inequalities for women and girls; to raise self-esteem and confidence levels, give women and girls the space to find their voice and recognise their own power, to become leaders of their own lives and within communities.
- 1.4 Through the running of various projects and programmes, based around group work to bring people together, Future Female Society aims to boost resilience, communication and creative skills in a safe environment. So far this year, Future Female Society has engaged with over 500 women and girls.
- 1.5 Future Female Society is seeking funding of £4,795 to deliver its Woman 2 Woman Radio project. Woman 2 Woman Radio is led by and for the women involved to give them a voice in society. The project works with refugees, asylum seekers and a broad range of migrant women including Kurdish, Afghani, Iranian, Pakistani, Eastern European and other migrant women in Central Ipswich.
- 1.6 A survey commissioned by BBC Radio 4's Women's Hour and carried out by The National Centre for Social Research Analysis placed Ipswich 357<sup>th</sup> out of 380 local authorities as a good place to live as a women or girl when they factored in issues such as the gender pay gap and education ([Woman's Hour Report: The best places in Britain for women, 2017](#)).
- a. In terms of income, Ipswich was placed 332<sup>nd</sup> out of 380.
  - b. Wellbeing; 341<sup>st</sup>.
  - c. Safety; 338<sup>th</sup>.
  - d. Education; 312<sup>th</sup>.
- 1.7 Future Female Society has consulted with women living in Central Ipswich, to find out about their experiences of living in and around the area as migrant women. The women have spoken of their isolation and fear from not being able to speak the English language, which has led to issues with landlords and unsuitable housing. The women have also spoken of a lack of friendships, opportunities and experiences of prejudice and racism.
- 1.8 Woman 2 Woman Radio upskills migrant women, by improving their confidence, English language and teaching them new transferrable skills, such as communication, recording and editing, interviewing, presenting, planning, researching and IT.

Alongside the project's educational aspects, it also creates a safe space that the women can share their experiences with others and be supported to create content for the radio which contests and counters some of the perceptions held.

- 1.9 Future Female Society has run the Woman 2 Woman Radio project twice successfully and now has seven former participants who would like to volunteer to support and recruit others through future programmes. The project first ran in 2018 and reached over 45 women through initial sessions at Ipswich Community Media and Suffolk Refugee Support, with 10 women joining the full programme. During the first project, content was created on forced marriage, the importance of cervical screening, and health and well-being.
- 1.10 The Central Ipswich project would be 12-weeks long and consist of weekly 2-hour sessions. It would support a further 15 women to learn how to produce and present their own radio shows/podcasts which would then be played on Ipswich On-Line (IO) Radio and BBC Radio Suffolk.
- 1.11 Woman 2 Woman Radio will begin in situ at Suffolk Refugee Support/Ipswich Community Media as outreach to recruit new members. The first four sessions will consist of basic interview skills and the creation of a small piece of radio. Following this, a further eight sessions will take place, alternating between the Hive, IO Radio Studios at South Street and BBC Radio Suffolk. These sessions will be focused on planning and creating content, recording and editing, conducting interviews and learning technical and IT skills. Participants will have the opportunity to interview guests and record with, speak to and shadow BBC Radio Suffolk journalists.
- 1.12 Woman 2 Woman Radio partners with Ipswich Community Media, to support participants with English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes throughout the project.
- 1.13 Woman 2 Woman Radio will also run weekend open workshops where anybody can come along, visit the studio and take part in fun activities, such as creating a jingle or radio advert. Open workshops will be led by the participants where they will have the opportunity to 'teach to learn' and share with others what they have learned.
- 1.14 Previous participants of the Woman 2 Woman Radio project have said:
  - a. *"W2W Radio has become the highlight of my week...a bit of 'me time' to meet up with my new friends, be inspired by their experiences and skills...and learn from them. Also, a great opportunity to do things that I have never done before; live interviews, recording podcasts...all under a supportive umbrella of safe & secure female companionship."*
  - b. *"W2W means a lot to me, it is a chance to meet up with other women and make friends and we share each other ideas I feel happy when I meet up with other women."*
- 1.15 A former participant, named J for anonymity, heard about Woman 2 Woman Radio through a local employment fair. She felt isolated and was suffering with poor mental health and anxiety following a divorce and the Coronavirus pandemic. J was isolated and not engaged in any meaningful way with her local community or the wider

community of Ipswich. J joined the project and discovered she was a very talented interviewer and presenter and that she had a passion for radio. The project opened a host of opportunities for her, since joining she has become a volunteer at Ipswich Community Media in their ESOL classes and on the BBC Belongings show. Her children have joined the South Street Kids Project and with Female Future Society she has been part of May Day, Global Rhythms and FFS Fest.

- a. She says, *“My self-esteem and confidence has improved so much. I am so happy to be part of W2W Radio. I want to be a role model to other women, to encourage them to do whatever they want. My plan is to create more radio with the wider community to uplift, encourage, motivate and support. To link people together”.*

- 1.16 The project also enables women to be part of community events that they may not have had the opportunity to be involved in previously, such as May Day, Global Rhythms, Ipswich Music Day and Future Female Society Fest.

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## 2. Links to Area Action Plan

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- 2.1 Domains of Deprivation:

- **Education, Skills and Training**, which is an area priority.
- Employment

- 2.2 The aims of Ipswich Borough Council

- **A Healthy Community**, which is an area priority.
- An Enjoyable Place to Live, Work and Study

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## 3. Financial implications

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- 3.1 There is £9,345.26 remaining unallocated in the Central committee’s budget, which is available to fund grant applications.

- 3.2 The table below shows the breakdown in costs:

Description of expenditure	Cost (£)
Training sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialist Trainer – £35 per hour x 2 hrs per week x 12 weeks = £840</li> <li>• Preparation hours – £35 per hour x 1 hrs per week x 12 weeks = £420</li> </ul>	£1,260
Project Co-ordination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £25 per hour x 3hrs per week x 12 weeks = £900</li> </ul>	£900

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Recruitment, support planning sessions, booking venues, contacting guests, arranging interviews/visits, monitoring WEMWEBS, co-ordinating events and celebration event.</i></li> </ul>		
<b>Project Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>£25 per hour x 2 hrs per week x 12 weeks = £600</li> <li><i>Project vision and strategy, Governance and compliance. H&amp;S, Risk Assessments. Ensuring project meets statutory requirements of inclusivity and safeguarding. Monitoring reports and evaluation of project.</i></li> </ul>		£600
<b>Project Administration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>£20 per hour x 3 hrs per week x 12 weeks = £720</li> <li><i>Project communication – with participants and partner organisations, keeping records of participant attendance, monitoring and inputting data, apportioning finances appropriately, monitoring expenses and keeping financial records.</i></li> </ul>		£720
<b>Staff and Volunteer Training</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff training is for updates in studio equipment/ software/editing, use of the portable podcasting equipment as well as training at BBC for studio / software use.</li> <li>Staff and Volunteer training includes basic safeguarding, Health and Safety and any other appropriate training, such as Mental Health First Aid Course and a First Aid at work Course.</li> </ul>		£200
Publicity and marketing - estimated printing/web etc		£250
<b>Venue Hire</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 hrs x 12 weeks x £20 = £480</li> </ul>		£480
Materials/consumables		£185
Events - graduation events		£200
<b>Total project cost</b>		<b>£4,795</b>
Total amount requested from the Area Committee	North West	
	South West	
	<b>Central</b>	<b>£4,795</b>
	North East	
	South East	

3.3 Future Female Society has a strong foundation of experience in sourcing grant funding and will seek further funding to continue this project.

3.4 Project sustainability will be achieved through the continued support of the volunteers that Future Female Society recruits to the project and undertake mentoring. Once participants are upskilled, they will have the opportunity to continue regular podcast/recording sessions independently.

3.5 The total amount requested from Central Area Committee is £4,795.

#### 4. Legal implications

4.1 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.

4.2 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.

4.3 Future Female Society is a registered Community Interest Company ([10408046](#)) and has provided its articles of association, annual accounts, a named bank account and safeguarding policy, as required by the Area Committee Funding Guidelines.

#### 5. Risks considered

Risk Description	Consequence of risk	Risk Controls	Probability of risk occurring taking account of controls (1 almost impossible - 6 very high)	Impact of risk, if it occurred taking account of actions (1 negligible - 4 catastrophic)
Risk of Coronavirus infection through contact in proposed activities	Covid-19 illness to clients or staff	Measures as described in Government guidance at time	2	3
<b>Actions to mitigate risk</b>	Future Female Society is required to follow the Government guidance pertaining to all relevant activities current at the time of delivery.			
Safeguarding of refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant women	Physical or psychological harm	Safeguarding policy and procedures	3	3
<b>Actions to mitigate risk</b>	<p>Future Female Society has provided the Communities team with its Safeguarding Policy.</p> <p>All staff and volunteers to undertake safeguarding training.</p> <p>This risk is owned by Future Female Society.</p>			

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**6. Options**

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- 6.1 Option 1 – Approve allocation of funding of £4,795 to Future Female Society to support a radio project for migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women living in central Ipswich.
- 6.2 Option 2 – Approve allocation of less than £4,795 as contribution to the same.
- 6.3 Option 3 – Do not fund.

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**6. Record of Decision taken**

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**7. Exemption from call in (if applicable)**

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I certify that this decision is urgent and therefore exempt from call-in for the following reasons:

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Signed.....

[This must be signed by the Chair of the Area Committee]

Cllr Jane Riley