

COMMITTEE: CENTRAL AREA

REF NO: CAC/24/08

DATE: 12 MARCH 2025

SUBJECT: FUNDING REQUEST – THE HIVE

REPORT AUTHOR: BETH ROBINSON

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: HANNAH LEYS

Short description of report content and the decision requested:

This report requests that the Central Area Committee consider allocating £7,800.00 to The HIVE to expand its weekly HOME social group, and to run creative photography workshops, providing a welcoming environment for residents to connect, develop new skills, and facilitate a sense of belonging.

List of Appendices included in this report:

- a) *Completed Application*

This report has been prepared by Beth Robinson,

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This report was prepared after consultation with:

Internal consultees

External consultees

Cad Taylor – The HIVE

The following policies form a context to this report:

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

Corporate Strategy – Proud of Ipswich: Championing our Community and Revitalising our Town

1. Item of business and issues for consideration

- 1.1 To consider the application of The HIVE and decide whether to agree:
 - i) Option 1 - Fund the total amount requested.
 - ii) Option 2 - Fund a different amount to the amount requested.
 - iii) Option 3 - Not fund.
- 1.2 The Committee will make its decision based on whether the application meets the funding criteria and the funds available to the Committee.
- 1.3 The HIVE (company number 13651553) runs a cultural and creative 'hub', based on Norwich Road. This comprises a range of activities and cultural celebrations, with a goal of offering a sense of belonging and connection within communities.
- 1.4 Activities for residents include creative workshops, podcast sessions, gardening, lunchtime concerts and shared meals, in addition to hosting guests who share additional resource to support the needs of the community.
- 1.5 The HIVE supports people from various backgrounds, particularly those who are vulnerable. This includes new arrivals, homeless people, young people in need of guidance, single parents, those experiencing financial hardship, and more.
- 1.6 The HIVE is requesting funding for two creative projects – 'HOME: A Weekly Social Group to Connect, Create and Grow ('HOME') and for Creative Photography Workshops.
- 1.7 The HIVE is requesting £4,100 to expand its HOME project. This will run weekly on a Tuesday for 16 weeks and will provide a space for residents to connect, supporting wellbeing and community cohesion. Each week, activities will include community yoga, creative arts, shared meals, and provide an opportunity for relationship building through general discussion. There will be an estimated 20-30 beneficiaries per week.
- 1.8 The HIVE is also requesting £3,700 towards its Creative Photography workshops, which will run for 6 sessions. Participants will learn from professional artists to create art which will empower attendees to express themselves, build confidence and technical skills, and bring people together to explore themes of identity. This will culminate in a public exhibition. There will be 8 direct beneficiaries, in addition to 100+ viewers of the exhibition, and more online.
- 1.9 The HIVE utilises volunteers and will run further active recruitment campaigns through means such as open days, also aiming to upskill individuals, who will also benefit from both projects. The HIVE currently has 10 volunteers who support projects.

- 1.10 In developing both projects, The HIVE has conducted focus groups in the local area and collated feedback from participants who currently use The HIVE, who report feeling welcome, increased self-worth, increased wellbeing, and gained experience, amongst other things.
- 1.11 The HIVE targets residents of Central Ipswich by regularly liaising with residents in the area, other partners local to the area, and recruitment of volunteers locally. The HIVE also attracts residents from other areas of Ipswich to increase inclusivity within its Westgate Ward-based location.
- 1.12 Beneficiaries will be made aware of the project via word of mouth, social media, emails, and other local media, such as on radio.
- 1.13 To evaluate the success of both projects, The HIVE will use media, video and film capturing, and Google surveys. The HIVE will survey and analyse using both qualitative and quantitative methods, which will also be used to shape future projects.

2. Links to Area Action Plan

- 2.1 Department of Communities and Local Government - Domains of Deprivation:
- **Education, Skills, and Training**, which is an Area Action Plan priority.
 - **Health and Disability**, which is an Area Action Plan priority.
- 2.2 Proud of Ipswich underlying principles:
- **Promoting Community Wellbeing and Fairness**, which is *the* Area Action Plan priority.
 - **A Thriving Town Centre**

3. Financial implications

- 3.1 There is £12,416.80 remaining unallocated in the Central Area Committee's budget, which is available to fund grant applications.
- 3.2 Cost breakdown:

Description of expenditure: HOME Tuesday Social	Cost (£)
2x Facilitator costs (16 weeks)	2,880.00
Venue hire (3h per session) (16 weeks)	960.00
Refreshments and lunch (16 weeks)	640.00

Volunteer expenses (16 weeks)	640.00
Project administration (16 weeks)	800.00
Marketing and promotion	100.00
Total cost	6,020.00
Total cost requested from Central Area Committee	4,100.00

Description of expenditure: Creative Photography Workshops		Cost (£)
Project facilitator (6 sessions)		2,280.00
Materials (£50/person – 8 people)		400.00
Sundry expenses – parking and laser printing		100.00
Volunteer costs		96.00
Exhibition equipment costs		1,200.00
Exhibition set up and maintenance costs		500.00
Total cost		4,576.00
Total cost requested from Central Area Committee		3,700.00
Total requested from Area Committees	North East	N/A
	North West	N/A
	Central	£7,800.00
	South East	N/A
	South West	N/A
	TOTAL	£7,800.00

- 3.3 The HIVE will provide volunteer and exhibition set up and maintenance costs in-kind.
- 3.4 The HIVE has secured match funding of £1,920 towards its HOME Tuesday Social project and £876 towards its Creative Photography Workshops.
- 3.5 The HIVE has been granted £2,796 from D. YOUNG to support the projects.
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3.6 The HIVE is exploring other fundraising options to increase the sustainability of the projects.

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 The HIVE (registered company number 13651553) has provided its constitution, named officers, proof of bank account, year-end accounts, safeguarding policy, and business plan as required by the Area Committee Funding Guidelines.

5. Risks considered

5.1

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)
Safeguarding risk to children and vulnerable people.	Emotional or physical harm to individual	Safeguarding system Records check on staff and volunteers.	2	3
Actions to mitigate risk	The HIVE uses a safeguarding policy to recognise and respond to safeguarding risks, which has been provided to the council.			

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)
Lack of participants	Improper use of public money	Advertisements		

Operational risk		Partnership working	2	2
Actions to mitigate risk	The HIVE has a well-established user base, including local partners and run regular recruitment plans. A business plan, including sustainability management has been provided to the council.			

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)
Physical harm to participants whilst engaging in physical activity.	Physical injury	First aid training Risk assessments for activities	2	3
Actions to mitigate risk	The HIVE trains staff in first aid and conducts regular risk assessments. Activities do not have a high propensity for serious injury.			

6. Options

- 6.1 Option 1 – Approve allocation of funding of £7,800.00 to The HIVE
- 6.2 Option 2 – Approve allocation of less than £7,800.00 as contribution to the same.
- 6.3 Option 3 – Do not fund.

7. Record of Decision taken

8. Exemption from call in (if applicable)

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

Signed.....

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