
REPORT TO:	FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT	AGENDA ITEM: 14
DATE OF MEETING:	22 ND NOVEMBER, 2001	CATEGORY: DELEGATED/
REPORT FROM:	DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN PARAGRAPH NO: n/a
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	PHILIP HEATH, HERITAGE OFFICER Ext. 5936	
SUBJECT:	SHARPE'S RESOURCE CENTRE	REF: 40.2.12
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	SWADLINCOTE/ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1.0 Recommendation

- 1.1 That although the Sharpe's Resource Centre will not be operational in the current financial year 2001/2002, the District Council still pays the Sharpe's Trust £20,000 for 2001/2 as allowed for by the Policy and Resources Committee in July 1999 instead of the agreed non-operational rate of £10,000.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To seek approval for payment of £10,000 to the Sharpe's Pottery Heritage and Arts Trust in the current financial year in addition to £10,000 already paid.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 In July 1999 the Policy and Resources Committee agreed to fund the Sharpe's Resource Centre with £10,000 p.a. revenue for the pre-operational phase and £20,000 per annum for ten years thereafter. At the time, it was envisaged that the Resource Centre would be operational in the current financial year 2001/2002. This will not be the case, so only £10,000 has been paid.
- 3.2 The five tenders for the main contract at Sharpe's (due to start on 19th November) came in substantially over-budget and the Trust is having to fill a funding gap in the capital phase of the project. It would, therefore, be very helpful to the Sharpe's Pottery Heritage and Arts Trust if the current financial year was regarded as an operational year, with payment of a further £10,000 as allowed in the budget.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 None, as the money is already in the budget. For avoidance of doubt, it should be clarified that the £20,000 p.a. for the first ten operational years will be deemed to start with the current financial year, and not the next year, when the centre will become truly operational. The District Council's total commitment of £215,000 over the first twelve years will thus remain unchanged.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 None

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 None

7.0 Conclusions

7.1 It is considered that the request for "operational" funding in a "non-operational" year is justified in the circumstances.

8.0 Background Papers

8.1 None