



Agenda Item 8

**Application for Financial Assistance,
Forth Valley Broadcasting Service -
Radio Royal**

Falkirk Council

Title: Application for Financial Assistance, Forth Valley
Broadcasting Service - Radio Royal

Meeting: Falkirk Common Good Committee

Date: 21 September 2018

Submitted By: Director of Corporate & Housing Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 An application has been received from Forth Valley Broadcasting Service - Radio Royal for funding towards the cost of additional production facilities for the hospital radio service at Forth Valley Royal Hospital.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **The Committee is asked to consider:-**

(1) The application for £5,000 from Falkirk Common Good Fund towards the cost of purchasing additional production facilities.

3. Background

- 3.1 Forth Valley Broadcasting Service – Radio Royal are the hospital broadcasting service for Forth Valley, broadcasting from its studios at the Forth Valley Royal Hospital.
- 3.2 The primary aim of their service is to help relieve the boredom and isolation a period in hospital can cause patients.
- 3.3 Radio Royal has been broadcasting since 1976,. Members volunteer on an average of 8.8 hours per week showing a real commitment to the sustainability of the station.
- 3.4 Radio Royal is dedicated to creating an equality of opportunity and works with both disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged members. It also involves and engages with young people who have an interest in broadcasting. It is currently working with pupils from Larbert High School who are writing, producing and recording small plays in the Radio Royal studios which are then broadcast on the station.
- 3.5 Purchasing additional production facilities will allow new and

disadvantaged members more time and freedom to practice their broadcasting skills which is not possible when the radio studios are being used for live broadcasts.

- 3.6 In 2016 Radio Royal upgraded its studio equipment from analogue to digital technology. In 2017 it upgraded other software and hardware to make all its equipment compatible. From July 2018 to July 2019 it intends to update the final remaining hardware (for roadshows) and also to purchase additional production facilities.
- 3.7 The 53 members who support the radio station and 300,000 patients who use the hospital facilities each year, as well as their friends, family and staff benefit from the radio service.

4. Considerations

- 4.1 The balance of the Falkirk Common Good Fund is £769,421 at 31 March 2018. Rents and interest received for the financial year 2018/19 are anticipated to be around £27,000, thus giving a projected balance of £796,421.
- 4.2 The last grant funded by the Committee was in January 2017. There were no grants awarded in financial year 2017/18 or in 2018/19 so far.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 No consultation has been carried out on the report's proposals.

6. Implications

Financial

- 6.1 The total cost of the additional production facilities is £11,316 and funding of £5,000 is sought from Falkirk Common Good Fund.
 - 6.1.1 There are another four funding applications pending which it hope would meet the balance of the project.
 - 6.1.2 Radio Royal do have limited funds available but these are retained as a reserve in case of equipment failure and for necessary maintenance.

Resources

- 6.2 There are no resource implications (such as staff and assets) which arise from the report recommendations.

Legal

- 6.3 There are no legal implications which arise from the report

recommendations.

Risk

- 6.4 There are no risk implications which arise from the report recommendations.

Equalities

- 6.5 An equality and poverty impact assessment has not been required.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

- 6.6 A sustainability assessment has not been completed as part of compiling this report.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 The sum requested is £5,000. The project is of community benefit.
- 7.2 The Falkirk Common Good Fund has a healthy balance and no grants were approved in the financial year 2017/18 or in 2018/19 so far. Members will need to consider if they wish to reduce the fund balance by awarding the grant.

Director of Corporate & Housing Services

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Appendices

None

List of Background Papers:

The following papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:

Application received from Mr Lee Tait, Fundraising Manager, Radio Royal on 25 June 2018.