

12. Facilities Operating Partnership – to consider and approve the trial of a project or performance to test the concept of a Facilities Operating Partnership

Partners – Liskerrett Community Centre and Liskeard Town Council own and operate a range of letting spaces at the Liskerrett Centre and Public Hall. These are provided for the benefit of the people of Liskeard and the wider rural catchment area and visitors. Both organisations have costs associated with the operating and improving of their respective facilities. For this reason, both organisations need to charge for the use of their facilities and seek external grant for the improving of their buildings.

It is considered that there might be opportunities for the two organisations to cooperate more closely with regards Performances and Projects.

Performances – Under the present arrangements, it would be usual to charge an upfront fee for the use of a letting space. There are differential rates of charges between commercial enterprises and charities. However, from time to time, an organisation or group might well be considering a project that would result in a booking for several letting spaces and be for several days allowing for a set-up, rehearsal, performance and the dismantling of the set. In this instance a booking might well amount to £800 - £900. It has been suggested that new not for profit groups might well be deterred from making such a booking. The town would lose the opportunity to host an event and the venue operator would lose the much-needed income stream.

It is proposed that for an initial trial project that the requirement for an upfront payment be waived in favour of a “profit share” type approach. This would aim to cover direct costs associated with the event. The profit share would be made after the event had been held. This would assist in attracting new groups and projects. It is not proposed that this become the normal default operating system for all commercial and institutional organisations but is reserved for new and special projects that might not otherwise happen.

Projects – Liskerrett Community Centre and Liskeard Town Council both propose improvements to their buildings. They have sought and will be seeking grant support to enable the works to go ahead cost effectively. In the past, simple letters of support (e.g. the attached) have often been enough to assist projects to achieve grant support from external bodies. However, recent contact with grant bodies has seen them ask for:

- joint working between venues to maximise the offer to prospective users and hence the benefit to the wider community.
- to show that the different venues are not competing for the same limited amounts of grant support to duplicate provision within a town that may not be needed.

Proposal – That Liskerret Community Centre and Liskeard Town Council consider and approve:

1. an initial Project or Performance where the use of a “Profit Share” approach can be adopted.
2. Should the initial trial prove successful to adopt this approach for suitable future opportunities.
3. Discuss further partnership working to improve facilities and usage at each venue.

Timetable – the Liskerret Community Centre considered this report at its meeting on 16th February 2017. They agreed to the adoption of the proposal.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Committee agree to the concept of trialling a project or performance to test the viability of the above approach towards the operating of the facilities.