

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**FINANCE and PROPERTY ADVISORY BOARD**

**20 May 2009**

**Joint Report of the Director of Finance and Chief Leisure Officer**

**Part 1- Public**

**Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision**

**1 REQUEST FOR CAPITAL GRANT - BOROUGH GREEN VILLAGE HALL  
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**The Council has received an application for a capital grant from Borough Green Village Hall Management Committee.**

**1.1 Introduction**

- 1.1.1 Members will be aware that due to the financial situation facing the Borough Council, the decision was taken by Cabinet that it was no longer in a position to provide the level of financial assistance it has in previous years to parish councils and voluntary and community groups. Against this background, funding for the 2009/10 scheme for capital grants was withdrawn. However, the Cabinet also recognised that there may be some very special circumstances that could exceptionally justify a grant being made. Those organisations who felt they had a special case were invited to write to the Chief Executive giving their reasons for requesting exceptional consideration.
- 1.1.2 The Council has received a request for a capital grant of £6,949.70 from Borough Green Village Hall Management Committee, to help finance an urgent project to replace the central heating system which needs to be complete by this autumn / winter.
- 1.1.3 A summary of the application along with comments from officers, local Members and Borough Green Parish Council is attached to this report **[ANNEX 1]**.
- 1.1.4 Members are invited to consider the request as an “exceptional case”. If Members agree that the scheme should be supported, funding will need to be found within the existing allowance for capital schemes.

**1.2 Legal Implications**

- 1.2.1 None.

**1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

1.3.1 As set out in this report and accompanying annex.

#### **1.4 Risk Assessment**

1.4.1 There is a risk that, having committed grant, a project may not proceed. Given that the funding package involves bodies other than the Borough Council and the applicants this risk is unavoidable. However, payment of grant is made in arrear either after the completion of a project or after completion of interim stages. There is a risk that the project having started may not be completed, however experience shows that projects once started tend to run to completion. The scope of the project may be reduced and less work undertaken; in which case the amount of grant paid will be reduced proportionately.

#### **1.5 Recommendations**

1.5.1 Members are invited to consider this grant application, in light of the withdrawal of the capital grant scheme other than where there are exceptional circumstances.

Background papers:

contact: Francis Gahan

Papers held by the Accountancy Section

Sharon Shelton  
Director of Finance

Robert Styles  
Chief Leisure Officer