

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

FINANCE and PROPERTY ADVISORY BOARD

26 September 2012

Report of the Director of Finance and Cabinet Member for Finance

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Key Decision

1 FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH PARISH COUNCILS

This report gives details of the proposed allocations to individual parish councils under the Scheme of Financial Arrangements with Parish Councils for the financial year 2013/14.

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 The Council has a Scheme of Financial Arrangements with Parish Councils to provide funding for local services under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972. This Act allows payments by one council to another where both councils have powers to carry out a specific function. The Borough Council uses these powers to assist parishes with the cost of services they provide which are provided by the Borough Council in unparished areas.

1.1.2 In 2008, the Council, in liaison with the Parish Partnership Panel, agreed the budget for the Scheme of Financial Arrangements with Parish Councils would increase or decrease by the same percentage as the increase or decrease in the Borough Council's Revenue Support Grant settlement in the previous year.

1.2 Budget for Financial Arrangements with Parish Councils 2013/14

1.2.1 Members will be aware that the Council's Revenue Support Grant for 2012/13 was cut by 11.9%. **[Annex 1]** sets out the details of the allocations to individual parish councils in accordance with the agreed methodology.

1.3 Legal Implications

1.3.1 The Financial Arrangements with Parish Councils are in accordance with Section 136 of the Local Government Act 1972 which says: "Two or more local authorities may make arrangements for defraying any expenditure by one of them in exercising any functions exercisable by both or all of them."

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.4.1 As set out above.

1.5 Risk Assessment

- 1.5.1 There will always be a degree of risk associated with third party service delivery; however our experiences with the Parish Councils lead us to believe this risk is very small.

1.6 Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.6.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

1.7 Recommendations

- 1.7.1 Members are asked to **RECOMMEND** to Cabinet that:
- 1) The agreed methodology is adopted in calculating the allocations to parish councils under the Scheme of Financial Arrangements with Parish Councils for the year 2013/14.
 - 2) Parish Councils be notified of their allocations as set out in **[Annex 1]**.

Background papers:

contact: Francis Gahan

Scheme of Financial Arrangements with Parish Councils held by the Accountancy Section

Sharon Shelton
Director of Finance

Martin Coffin
Cabinet Member for Finance

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	Changes to grant allocations are not expected to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community.
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	No	See above
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		None

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.