

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

25 June 2014

Report of the Management Team

Part 1- Public

Executive Non Key Decisions

1 COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT FUND

To set out suggested arrangements for a further funding round.

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Members will recall that the Community Enhancement Fund was established in 2011 to provide funding support for local community groups including the Borough's parish and town councils. Three funding rounds have been completed to date: an initial general funding round followed by two further 'targeted' rounds which were aimed at supporting parish and town councils, and to support community events celebrating the Queen's Jubilee and the 2012 Olympics.
- 1.1.2 From the initial £500,000 set aside for the fund, a total of £239,024 has been spent to date leaving an available balance of £260,976 for further round(s).
- 1.1.3 The purpose of this report is to set out suggested proposals for a further funding round to be launched over the next few months.

1.2 Proposed Funding Round 2014

- 1.2.1 The options for a further funding round for 2014 are to either:
 - launch a general funding round open to a wide range of local community groups; or;
 - launch a more targeted round aimed at specific groups or for specific purposes/events.
- 1.2.2 A single general funding round has the benefit of widening the range of beneficiaries that could be supported and so generate greater positive impacts for our local communities. A larger single funding round would also be more simple to administer than several smaller, targeted rounds. The last general funding round was undertaken in 2011 so it is considered timely to repeat this in 2014 given that

the wider community has not had the opportunity to bid for funding for some three years.

1.2.3 We suggest, therefore, that a general funding round be undertaken open to the following types of groups:

- Voluntary sector bodies and charities (either located in the Borough or otherwise providing services to Borough residents)
- Local community groups in the Borough
- The Borough's Parish and Town Councils.

1.2.4 As previously, the fund should be limited to supporting proposals for one-off purchases or expenditure only, with a normal maximum grant per organisation of £2500. This will aim to ensure all applicants have a good chance of receiving some funding and that there is no ongoing (revenue) funding commitment involved.

1.2.5 Clear guidance for applicants and criteria on which to help the Council make decisions on the bids received will be needed. A suggested draft of these is attached as Annex 1 to this report.

1.3 Proposed Timetable

1.3.1 We suggest that the next funding round could now be launched in mid-July. A period of six weeks is appropriate to enable bids to be drawn up and submitted and for these to be processed. It is suggested that all decisions on the bids should be reported to, and considered by, the Communities and Health Advisory Board preferably in September. Currently there is a meeting of the Board programmed for 28th July and it is suggested that this could be re-scheduled to the 23rd September to enable the submitted bids to be considered. The next programmed meeting of the Board on 17th November could then be used to 'mop up' any outstanding issues.

1.3.2 Our aim will be to keep administration and decision making for the next funding round both simple and straight forward subject to appropriate financial safeguards being adopted.

1.4 Legal Implications

1.4.1 None

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.5.1 To be assessed when bids are evaluated.

1.6 Risk Assessment

1.6.1 n/a

1.7 Equality Impact Assessment

1.7.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

1.8 Recommendations

1.8.1 That a further round of the Community Enhancement Fund **BE LAUNCHED** on the terms as set out in this report.

Background papers:

contact: Mark Raymond

Nil

Julie Beilby
Chief Executive

On Behalf of the Management Team

| 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 | All funding bids will be assessed on their individual merits |
| b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality? | Yes | There is scope for this funding round to provide support for a wide range of groups who promote equality of opportunity. |
| c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above? | | NA |

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.