

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMMUNITIES and HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD

20 July 2021

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)

1 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORK IN THE TRENCH WARD OF TONBRIDGE

To provide an update on the proposed Community Development Worker for Trench and to seek endorsement for two-year grant funding.

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 For several years the Council has funded a contractor to deliver part time community work in both the Trench area of Tonbridge and in East Malling (£7,500 per year, for each area). Ongoing community development work which is focussed on our more deprived communities is a vital part of the Council's agenda, with strong links to our health improvement programmes, welfare initiatives and community safety partnership. Having independent community workers within the communities has worked well and will be even more important as restrictions ease and we recover from the effects of the pandemic.
- 1.1.2 In 2020 the existing contractor in Trench no longer wanted to continue and the decision was made to temporarily suspend appointing another contractor as community outreach work was difficult during the pandemic.
- 1.1.3 As we hopefully return to normality, the need to deliver community initiatives and provide support for Trench residents has been raised by partners in the TN10 Partnership Group. Both Clarion Housing and Tonbridge Baptist Church (TBC) have asked for the Community Development Worker position to be reinstated. Clarion Futures have offered to match fund the £7,500 per year from the Council to deliver this support and TBC will be able to support the post, being the overall "employer" providing office space, line management and funding of £3,750 per year. This would be fixed for a two-year period.
- 1.1.4 There is already a significant amount of community outreach (including the food bank) operating from TBC. The Community Development Worker will be able to link in with this work, but also work with other partners and charities in the area. Outreach work, away from the Church will be undertaken, linking with other

partners on the TN10 group as well as other organisations such as the Angel Football Club. It is recognised that “one size doesn’t fit all” when delivering community support, so the Community Development Worker will engage with residents and seek to support individuals in the most appropriate way for them.

1.2 Legal Implications

- 1.2.1 This would be a different arrangement than our previous “Contract for Services”, which was in place for the Community Development Worker. TBC would be the employer and we would pay a grant to TBC with a Service Level Agreement, which would be set at £7,500 per year for a two-year term. The SLA would be agreed by all three parties (TMBC, Clarion and TBC).

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.3.1 This is not growth to the Council budget, but it will be a commitment for a two-year period.

1.4 Risk Assessment

- 1.4.1 N/A

1.5 Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.5.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.6 Policy Considerations

- 1.6.1 Community
- 1.6.2 Crime & Disorder Reduction
- 1.6.3 Healthy Lifestyles

1.7 Recommendations

- 1.7.1 That Members **NOTE** the arrangements for the proposed Community Development Worker for Trench, and;
- 1.7.2 That Members **ENDORSE** the grant funding of £7,500 per year, for two years, to be paid to Tonbridge Baptist Church.

The Chief Executive confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

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Nil

Julie Beilby
Chief Executive