

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMMUNITIES and HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

23 September 2014

Report of the Management Team

Part 1- Public

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

1 COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT FUND – ASSESSMENT OF BIDS

To set out the bids received from Parish Councils and Community Groups and to make decisions on each of these.

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 A further round of the Community Enhancement Fund was launched in mid-July following a report to Cabinet on 25 June 2014. It was agreed that the funding round would be targeted on community groups either based in, or providing services to, the Borough, and on Parish Councils, particularly regarding proposals supporting the World War 1 Commemorations. A set of criteria for the round was set out and adopted and this is attached as Appendix 1 to this report for information.
- 1.1.2 The funding round closed on 8th September. A total of 102 bids from community groups have been received with a total value of £183,307. 15 Parish Councils have also submitted bids with a total value of £39,030. Overall, there has been a good spread of bids from different parts of the Borough.
- 1.1.3 The Board is now asked to consider the bids which have been submitted and to recommend to the Cabinet Members for Communities and Health and for Finance, Innovation and Property which bids should be supported either in full or in part.

1.2 Key Criteria

- 1.2.1 As set out in Appendix 1, the two key criteria that should be used to guide the Board's recommendations are:
- Bids must not give rise to any on-going revenue implications; bids should therefore relate to one-off purchases (eg of equipment/works) or revenue funding projects which are clearly time-limited.

- Match funding for bids must be demonstrated. Applicants have been advised via the adopted guidelines at Appendix 1 that bids for the full cost of projects are unlikely to be accepted.

1.2.2 In order to assist the Board with evaluating the bids received, a series of schedules have been prepared as follows and are attached as Appendices to this report:

Appendix 2 – Capital Bids with Match Funding - Supported

Appendix 3 – Capital Bids with no Match Funding – See Below

Appendix 4 – Revenue Bids with Match Funding - Supported

Appendix 5 – Bids Rejected

Appendix 6 – Bids from Older People’s Groups – See Below

Appendix 7 – Bids from Parish Councils - Supported

1.2.3 The bids set out in Appendices 2, 4 and 7 have been judged to meet all the necessary criteria (including the requirement to demonstrate match funding) and it is therefore recommended that all of these be bids **BE SUPPORTED** in full.

1.2.4 Appendix 3 contains bids which are generally supportable as capital bids but, in these cases, the applicants have been unable to demonstrate any match funding for their projects. This would suggest that, given the adopted criteria and the need to be consistent across all bids (including those who have demonstrated some match) these bids should be rejected. However, it is acknowledged that match funding might be difficult to achieve for some smaller community groups and, generally, our overall aim with the Community Enhancement Fund is to give support to as many good causes as possible. On this basis, an alternative approach would be to offer a reduced amount of funding, for example, a small reduction of 10%. This would enable these bids to be supported in part, achieve consistency with the adopted guidelines and also give encouragement to those groups to seek some additional funding for themselves. On this basis, it is recommended that the bids set out in Appendix 3 should **BE AWARDED 90%** of the amounts that have been requested.

1.2.5 Appendix 5 contains two bids which have been rejected. The bid from Sevenoaks and Tonbridge band is retrospective. A capital bid from the Tonbridge and Malling Citizens Advice Bureau has been rejected on the basis that decoration costs are not eligible and the cost of the proposed purchase of headsets is something which needs to be shared equally with the Bureau’s other funding partners. On this basis, it is recommended that the bids set out in Appendix 5 **BE REJECTED**.

1.2.6 A number of bids, listed at Appendix 6, have been submitted by local older people’s groups. The Board will be aware that the Tonbridge and Malling Seniors’

Forum is now established and has received grant support from the Borough Council and annual grants from Kent County Council. The TAMS Management Committee has recently expressed a desire to consider giving financial support to local older people's groups in the Borough. There is an opportunity, therefore, to invite the TAMS Management Committee to co-fund those bids at Appendix 6 in partnership with the Borough Council potentially on a 50/50 basis. The TAMS Management Committee is being consulted on this proposal and a verbal update will be given to the Board. It is therefore recommended that the bids set out at Appendix 6 **BE SUPPORTED** and that they either be met in full from the Community Enhancement Fund or, if the TAMS Management Committee is willing to contribute, be paid in part, provided the total awarded matches the amounts bid for.

1.3 Future Publicity

- 1.3.1 There will be a requirement for successful bidders to acknowledge the support given by the Borough Council. In addition, consideration will be given to the need to generate additional, positive publicity about the community enhancement fund in the coming months as individual funding awards are claimed.

1.4 Legal Implications

- 1.4.1 None

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.5.1 The total amount to be awarded based on the recommendations set out in this report is £212,960. There is a total of £260,976 currently remaining within the fund which would then leave £48,016 unallocated.

1.6 Risk Assessment

- 1.6.1 Taken into account when bids have been assessed against the adopted criteria.

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 the Cabinet Members for Communities and Health and for Finance, Innovation and Property **BE INVITED** to endorse the Board's recommendations as set out this report.

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:

Nil

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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 bids have been assessed with full regard to equalities issues
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	Yes	A number of bids for funding which are recommended to be supported aim to help vulnerable members of the community.
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		n/a

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.