

To:	Des Keers, Cabinet Member for Community Services
From:	Gill Fox, Policy, Scrutiny & Communities Manager
Director:	Julie Beilby, Chief Executive

BRIEFING NOTE: EXECUTIVE - NON-KEY DECISION

Community Worker for the Trench Ward in Tonbridge

Summary of Issue:

For the last two years the Council has had a Service Level Agreement in place with Tonbridge Baptist Church to provide a Community Worker to cover the Trench ward of Tonbridge. This arrangement is due to end on 31 October 2023 and I am now seeking agreement for a further 2 year SLA.

Recommendation:

That the report **BE NOTED**

That a further 2-year Service Level Agreement to deliver community support in the Trench area **BE AGREED** at £8,000 per year for two years.

1 Background

There remains a need to deliver community initiatives and support for Trench residents as has been raised by partners in the TN10 Partnership. Both Clarion and Tonbridge Baptist Church (TBC) have indicated that they will again support this post financially (£8,000 per year from Clarion and TBC have also confirmed they are able to commit funds and provide line management and employer liabilities).

2 Main Issues

The existing SLA is for £7,500 per year, however as there is also money set aside so support this post from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF), it is proposed that this is increased to £8,000 per year for the two years. It is worth noting that the Community Worker has been invaluable over the past two years, some headline activity from the post holder is provided below:

- Establishing, maintaining and running the **Fuel Bank** – I have helped over 440 families and have distributed over £100,00 of the TMBC Household Support Fund
- Running **Sustain Foodbank** and **Sustain Fresh food** projects – We support around 55 families a week with both store cupboard items and fresh food.
- Running **Clothes to Go** – “pop up” clothing charity shop – a popular weekly event here in Trench.
- Held a “**Summer Fun**” event for the local community in partnership with Clarion
- Keeping **Digital Inclusion** running (Clarion funded IT course)

3 Legal Advice

The matters set out in this briefing note are considered routine or uncontroversial and a legal opinion has not been sought.

4 Financial and Value for Money implications

The cost to support the post is £8,000 per year for a two-year period (£500 each year will be met from the COMF). There is also added value, with financial support from both TBC and Clarion HG.

5 Risk Assessment

There is no perceived risk associated with the recommendations set out in this report.

6 Public Sector Equality Duty

In providing funds to support this post, the post holder will ensure that there is due regard to the need to achieve the objectives set out under s149 of the Equality Act 2021.

7 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

We do not consider that this matter needs to be considered by O&S/ SSC before a decision is made.

It is not a key decision as it continues an agreement that has been in place for the previous two years. The decision does not cut across 2 or more portfolios nor does it propose a new or amended strategy. We are therefore of the view that this decision can be taken by the Cabinet Member.

8 Communications

Projects or initiatives that are delivered via the Community Worker will be communicated to the Council via TBC with any shared publicity opportunities supported via our website and social media activity.

9 Conclusion

Supporting the funding of the Community Worker post, attracts additional investment from partner organisations and helps meet the Council's objective to support vulnerable people in more deprived communities.

10 Annexes

None