

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

24 March 2015

Report of the Management Team

Part 1- Public

Executive Non Key Decisions

1 COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT FUND

To consider proposals to make appropriate use of residual community enhancement funds.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 The last (and final) round of the community enhancement fund, as reported to the Communities and Health Advisory Board in September and October last year, resulted in awards totalling approximately £215,000. If all of these latest awards are taken up in full, there remains some £31,000 unspent in the community enhancement pot from the original allocation of £500,000. The purpose of this report is to set out proposals for the use of this residual funding.

1.2 RBLI Garden of Remembrance

1.2.1 Members will be aware of this key local project aimed at providing a fitting memorial to honour those who have served and also to provide a much needed space for reflection and the enjoyment of local residents. We have recently been asked by the RBLI to consider whether the Borough Council could make an additional contribution to the costs of this project. The total cost of the project is £300,000 and to date, £275,000 has been raised. Further fund raising to meet the gap is now underway. The Borough Council donated £5,000 from the community enhancement fund last year. It is suggested that a further £5,000 now be offered to help the RBLI complete this important community project.

1.2.2 Two other war memorials were also awarded funding last year. Borough Green Parish Council received £5,000 towards the costs of designing and erecting a new war memorial for the village (total cost £30,000) whilst a grant of £2,500 was awarded to Burham Parish Council to refurbish their existing memorial gardens (total cost £16,000). If Members are minded to give additional support to these two projects, it is suggested that Borough Green PC be offered a further £2,500 and Burham PC be offered an additional £1,250.

1.3 Residual Funding

- 1.3.1 If the above additional awards are agreed, there would be approximately £22,250 left in the community enhancement fund. We suggest that this funding now be set aside to create a small reserve to help fund future community development work in the Borough. Community development, particularly focused on our more deprived local communities, is an important strand of work for the Borough Council but one which has traditionally depended in the past on support funding being made available by partner organisations. Whilst some partner funding remains, Circle Russet Homes, for example, continue to help fund our community development work and the community safety unit, some reserve funding using residential CEF monies would enable this important work to continue in the future. A fuller report on the future of the Borough Council's community development work will be made to the appropriate board following the local elections.

1.4 Legal Implications

- 1.4.1 None

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.5.1 As set out in the above report.

1.6 Risk Assessment

- 1.6.1 The establishment of a community development funding reserve will reduce the risk of such important work being curtailed or reduced in scale.

1.7 Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.7.1 Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups, and (iii) foster good relations between people from different groups. The decisions recommended through this paper directly impact on end users. The impact has been analysed and varies between groups of people. Work to support our more deprived communities impact directly on both (ii) and (iii) above.

1.8 Recommendations

- 1.8.1 That the following grants to support the further enhancement of war memorials **BE APPROVED:**

RBLI - £5,000

Borough Green PC - £2500

Burham PC - £1250

1.8.2 That a Community Development reserve **BE ESTABLISHED** using remaining CEF monies.

Background papers:

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Nil

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Chief Executive

On behalf of the Management Team