



CABINET

6TH FEBRUARY 2014

AGENDA ITEM (11)

PROPOSED WARD MEMBER SCHEME - COMMEMORATION OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Accountable Member	Councillor Lynden Stowe Leader of the Council
Purpose of Report	To consider a proposal for the allocation of one-off funding to support local/community activities in the District in commemoration of the First World War.
Recommendations	(a) That the proposal be approved, as detailed in paragraph 3 below; (b) that funding be made available in 2014/15 only, and be met from the Council Priorities Fund; (c) that the Leader of the Council be given delegated authority to finalise the relevant application form.
Reason(s) for Recommendation(s)	To provide funding to support local/community activities associated with the First World War Centenary.
Ward(s) Affected	All
Key Decision	No
Recommendation to Council	No
Financial Implications	The maximum cost of the proposal would be £22,000 (if every Member fully used their allocation). Given the one-off nature of the proposed scheme, it is suggested that such cost be met from the Council Priorities Fund.
Legal and Human Rights Implications	There are no Legal and/or Human Rights implications.
Environmental and Sustainability Implications	There are no Environmental and/or Sustainability implications.
Human Resource Implications	There are some Human Resource implications because any allocation scheme that is approved will need managing and monitoring. However, the process aims to be straight-forward.
Key Risks	None identified.

Equalities Analysis	No effect on protected groups identified.
Related Decisions	None.
Background Documents	None.
Appendices	None.
Performance Management Follow Up	Implement any approved scheme.
Options for Joint Working	This is not considered to be a potential joint working project, as the scheme provides for the allocation and utilisation of monies within the District. However, organisations applying for the funding will be encouraged, where appropriate, to work with others to ensure effective use of the money.

Background Information

1. 2014 marks 100 years since the start of the First World War. Within Government, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport is leading plans to build a commemoration that is fitting of this significant milestone in world history, working alongside partners including the Imperial War Museum, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.
2. In addition to the national plans, others are encouraged to get involved. With this in mind, the Cabinet is asked to consider and endorse a proposal for the allocation of one-off funding to support local/community activities in the District in commemoration of the First World War.
3. The key elements of the proposal are as follows:
 - (i) Each Ward Member will receive an allocation of £500, to spend within his/her Ward. As with the Youth Activities funding, this approach will devolve the funding and activity/project selection to a very local level, ensuring that all wards have access to an equal share of the funding. In multi-Member Wards, the Members can agree to 'pool' their funding to support one or more major activities or the collective sum could be used to award a number of small sums.
 - (ii) The process will be similar to that used to allocate Community Projects and Youth Activities funding. This will entail the completion of a simple application form, endorsed by the Ward Member(s), setting out how the funding is proposed to be used. To ensure accountability and scrutiny of the process, all applications would be submitted for approval by the Leader at decision-making meetings. However, to avoid delay, such meetings will be arranged as necessary upon receipt of applications. It is suggested that the finalisation of any application form be delegated to the Leader.
 - (iii) It is not proposed to apply restrictive criteria as to the use of the funding but, rather, to ensure that it relates to some form of commemoration activities or events. This could, for example, include contributions towards the provision of commemorative plaques to remember local people who served in the conflict, commemorative publications, the repair/cleaning of war memorials, local exhibitions, etc. The aim is very much to provide funding for local people to use in their communities and provide seed-funding to encourage others to contribute towards projects.
4. The proposal is quick and simple to implement. While a single deadline for applying for

funding is not suggested, it is hoped that approval of a scheme at this stage will enable the formulation/submission/approval/implementation of projects/activities in time for the centenary of the start of the conflict. However, funding will only be available in 2014/15.

5. In summary, the proposal seeks to bring communities together to commemorate a significant time in world history, while reflecting on and recognising the sacrifices made by local people.

(END)