

APPENDIX K

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE - 2 FEBRUARY 2010

Title:

HASLEMERE HALL – ESSENTIAL ROOF WORKS PROJECT

[Portfolio Holders: Cllrs Roger Steel & Mike Band]

[Wards Affected: All]

Summary and purpose:

The purpose of this report is to consider a request from Haslemere Hall Trust for a contribution towards its project to carry out emergency, essential roof repair work to the Haslemere Hall.

How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

Haslemere Hall is supported by the Waverley Community Partnership which awards funding towards the running costs of organisations that provide high priority services for the benefit of Waverley residents, in partnership with the Council. The services that partner organisations deliver across all corporate objectives and the Haslemere Hall particularly falls within the Leisure priority.

Equality and Diversity Implications:

Haslemere Hall is supported under the Waverley Community Partnership and therefore provides access to a key service in the borough which benefits a wide range of users including young people, older people and faith organisations. The Hall has appropriate and up-to-date policies including equality & diversity, access etc.

Resource and Value for Money implications:

Throughout 2009 officers supported the Haslemere Hall Trust to develop a fundraising strategy and apply to grant-funders to finance the essential repairs to the Hall's roof. In March 2009 the Council paid for a full building conditions inspection costing £5,547. The inspection recommendations considered that one of the most urgent items was the repair of the roof.

The total cost to repair the roof is £133,000. £85,000 has been secured to date, leaving a shortfall of £48,000.

Haslemere Hall Trust wrote to the Council at the end of December 2009 asking if it would consider providing some emergency funding towards the shortfall in funding for the roof project so that work may start as soon as possible.

Officers have considered the application, and although the Community Partnership Fund no longer exists, have used the same criteria that would have applied. As part of the criteria, Waverley would expect to see the local town/parish council offer financial support to demonstrate local commitment for the project.

On that basis, if Members are minded to support the Haslemere Hall Trust's request for funding towards the roof project, up to £32,000 of unallocated 2009-2010 capital resources could be used to finance the proposal, on the following basis:

- the Council awards a one-off contribution of £16,000 towards the project;
- if Haslemere Town Council agrees to provide a grant towards the project, the Council matches that amount up to a maximum of £16,000.

Legal Implications:

There are no direct legal implications relating to this report.

Background

1. Following Haslemere Hall Trust's application to the 2009/10 round of the Waverley Community Partnership, the Chair of Trustees wrote to the Council in January 2009 raising various issues that the Hall would be facing in the future, which included the need to repair the roof.
2. In March, the Grants Officer, Arts Officer and Cllrs Morgan and Renshaw visited the Hall to discuss the roof project and offer support.
3. It was agreed that a full building conditions inspection should firstly be carried out to assess any work required within 5 year and 10 year timescales. The survey included a building inspection and mechanical and electrical services inspection. The cost of the inspection and report, £5,547, was paid for by the Council following a Chief Executive's decision which was noted at the Executive meeting on 3 March 2009. The inspection recommendations considered that one of the most urgent items was the repair of the roof.
4. Officers visited the Hall on a number of occasions to develop a fundraising programme for the roof project. Officers supported the Trustees to make a bid for funding to the SITA Environmental Trust Enhancing Communities Large Grants Scheme. The application was for £50,000 and the Hall was awarded a grant of £25,000 in August 2009. A bid was also submitted to Biffaward Community Main Grants Scheme for £40,000. The application was turned down in December 2009 due to over-subscription to the scheme, that the project was not considered a priority for the limited allocation available and that Biffaward had funded a large number of projects in the south east region.
5. Following the rejection of the Biffaward application, officers have offered the Hall further support with other possible sources of grant-funding and fundraising. However, this would take time and the Trustees are keen that the building work should start in the new year, partly to secure the SITA grant. The Chair of Trustees is writing to potential donors to raise some of the shortfall in funding. Trustees are also seeking permission from the Charities Commission to 'borrow' against the Hall's endowment fund.
6. The Hall's Trustees wrote to the Council in December 2009 asking if it would consider making a financial contribution towards the project.

Current Funding Position

Total Project Cost		£133,143	
	Amount Applied for	Amount Secured	Notes
SITA Environmental Trust	£50,000	£25,000	Project must start early 2010 to secure funding
The Doris King Trust	£20,000	£20,000	
Haslemere Hall Trust (volunteers/trustees)	£20,000	£28,000	
Local societies/ Waitrose/Hall staff		£2,000	
Marley Trust	£2,500		Recent application – not hopeful
Chalice Trust	£5,000		Recent application
Legacies	N/a	£10,000	
Rejections			
Biffaward	£50,000	-	Low priority/other projects in south east recently funded
Total raised		£85,000	
Balance to be found		£48,143	

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Executive:

1. agrees that the level of Waverley's contribution towards the Haslemere Hall essential roof works project should be up to £32,000 and be a combination of direct and matched-funding with Haslemere Town Council;
2. agrees the split between direct and matched funding; and
3. subject to the decision in (1) above, agrees that any additional funding is met from unallocated 2009-2010 capital resources.

Background Papers (DCEX)

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

CONTACT OFFICERS:

Name: Paul Wenham

Telephone: 01483 523238

E-Mail: paul.wenham@waverley.gov.uk

Name: Jane Todd

Telephone: 01483 523067

E-Mail: jane.todd@waverley.gov.uk