

Meeting: Cabinet
Date: 16th March 2006
Subject: Review of Community Premises
Responsible Officer: Director of Financial and Business Strategy
Contact Officer: Community Premises Review Support Officer
Portfolio Holder: Communications, Partnership & Human Resources
Key Decision: No
Status: Part 1

Section 1: Summary

This report presents the recommendations of the Member lead sub group on the review of Community Premises.

Decision Required

That Cabinet approves the recommendations of the Grants Advisory Panel made on 8th March 2006.

Reason for report

To approve the recommendations of the Grants Advisory Panel.

Benefits

To allow the Cabinet to consider the detailed findings from the review

Cost of Proposals

No direct costs at this stage

Risks

There is a risk that the recommendations from the review will not be taken forward.

Implications if recommendations rejected

Should the findings of the review be rejected , the review will not have been worthwhile.

Section 2: Report

2.1 Brief History

During 2005 the Grants Panel established a sub group to carry out a review of community premises. An officer was appointed in August to provide support to the members throughout the project.

The officer presented a series of reports to the sub group between September and February setting out her findings, and presented her final report to the group on 27 February. This report is attached at Appendix 2.

Cllr Asante also produced a report on the review, which she presented to the sub group on 15 February and finalised after the meeting on 27 February. At the meeting on 27 February the sub group members voted to put Cllr Asante's report forward to the Grants Panel for consideration. This report is attached at Appendix 1.

However, as there was not a consensus they also agreed to put forward the officer's report.

2.3. Consultation

Consultation has been a major feature of this review and details are given in the attached reports.

2.4. Financial Implications

There are a number of recommendations included in the two reports – however any costs associated with implementation have not been quantified at this stage. Any costs would have to be contained within approved budgets.

2.5. Legal Implications

Provision of the Community Premises is done so under powers granted in the Local Government Act 2000 (Section 2). This power allows local authorities to do anything, which in this instance will achieve, promote or improve the social well being of the area. In addition Section 19 (2) of the Local Government Act 1976, allows the local authority to make facilities available for voluntary organisations and can charge as it thinks fit.

Given that the premises are owned by the Council it is lawful, as a landlord, to decide to levy a rent.

2.6. Equalities Impact

Relevant issues are set out in the attached reports.

2.7. Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Considerations

None

Section 3: Supporting Information/ Background Documents

Appendix 1 – Community Premises Review cover report dated 8th March 2006, Review Support Officer report and Member Review report. (Circulated in the Cabinet Supplemental Supporting Documents Pack)

Appendix 2 – Recommendations from the Grants Advisory Panel meetings of 8th February 2006.