

TO: THE MONITORING OFFICER
(TOM CLARK, SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL)

RECORD OF ACTION TAKEN BY A CABINET MEMBER
UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

Subject: Release of Community and Economic Development Funds to cover the cost of the rent due on the Sheddingdean Community Centre which is let by the Council to the Sheddingdean Community Association and Windmills Opportunity Playgroup.	
Cabinet Member: Councillor Jonathan Ash-Edwards	
Has the Cabinet Member received a report prior to making the decision?	Yes
In the case of a key decision where the Cabinet Member has received a report, please state the date a copy of the report was made available to the Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Committee and placed in the public domain:	N/A
Record of decision taken: Authorise two Community and Economic Development grants of £7,564.80 to Sheddingdean Community Association and £2,724.66 to Windmills Opportunity Playgroup to cover the cost of the rent due to the Council in respect of the Sheddingdean Community Centre for the period 2016-19.	
Date of decision: 9 th April 2018.	
Statement of reasons for making the decision: To enable Sheddingdean Community Association and Windmills Opportunity Playgroup to cover their overhead costs and continue providing a Service to the community.	
Alternative options considered and rejected: None.	
Code of Conduct Interest of Cabinet Members? If yes, please advise on the nature and whether dispensation in place	
Is the decision to be protected from call-in? (i.e if any delay would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interest) - see Scrutiny Procedure Rule 14 (M)	No
If so, please state:	

Signed:.....
Cabinet Member

This record must be forwarded immediately to the Monitoring Officer (TC) and

copied to the relevant Cabinet Member.

For Monitoring Officer

Date of publication of Member Information Service Bulletin	
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Date of decision can be implemented (on the Thursday after publication of the Member Information Service Bulletin, unless already protected from call-in)	
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REPORT TO CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

RELEASE OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR SHEDDINGDEAN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AND WINDMILLS OPPORTUNITY PLAYGROUP RENTAL COSTS

REPORT OF	Head of Corporate Resources
Contact Officer	Elaine Clarke, Community Leisure Officer Email: elaine.clarke@midsussex.gov.uk tel: 01444 477275
Wards affected	Leylands Ward
Key decision	No

Purpose of Report

1. Authority is sought for the release of Community and Economic Development Funds to cover the cost of the rent due on the Sheddingdean Community Centre which is let by the Council to the Sheddingdean Community Association and Windmills Opportunity Playgroup.

Recommendation

It is recommended that two Community and Economic Development Fund awards totaling £10,289.46 are made to cover the cost of the rent due in respect of the Sheddingdean Community Centre, as follows:

- £7,564.80 to Sheddingdean Community Association
 - £2724.66 to Windmills Opportunity Playgroup
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Background

2. In September 1997, the Community Services Committee considered a detailed report on the Sheddingdean Community Centre and the financial position of the Association which currently leases the Centre from the Council. At that time the Committee agreed in principle to make an annual grant, equal to the annual rent, which they are required to pay to the Council. It was noted that the organisation operates on a very restricted financial basis and that without what is effectively a 'rebate' on the rental it would almost certainly cease to exist.
3. The Council does not generally fund the ongoing running costs of community organisations but this is a unique historic arrangement which does not comply with the standard criteria for Community and Economic Fund grants.
4. The Sheddingdean Community Association is a group of local residents who manage the Community Centre. The Centre is hired on a regular basis by Sheddingdean Baptist Church who run a toddlers club, Slimming World, U3A, arts and craft activities, choir practise and martial arts, in addition to casual hiring's.
5. The Windmills Opportunity Playgroup occupies the Maple Room at the Sheddingdean Community Centre and has a separate lease for their use of the building. The Playgroup supports children with additional needs, provides early

intervention and support to parents and professionals and also offers opportunities for volunteers to work alongside practitioners to develop their skills.

6. New leases have been agreed with the Sheddingdean Community Association and Windmills Opportunity Playgroup commencing 18 November 2016 and 17 January 2016 respectively with both leases terminating on 17 November 2021. Under the terms of the lease, the tenants are obliged to undertake repairs and maintenance and keep the interior of the premises in a clean and tidy condition at all times.
7. Rents are now due as follows:

	Sheddingdean Community Association	Windmills Opportunity Playgroup
2015/2016	paid	£174.66
2016/2017	£1,835.80	£850.00
2017/2018	£5,000.00	£850.00
2018/2019	£5,000.00	£850.00
Totals	£11,835.80	£2,724.66

8. Sheddingdean Community Association will pay rent of £5,000 per annum (previously £3,750 pa.). A grant of £4,271 was awarded on 14 February 2017 toward rental costs and a further £7,564.80 will be required to cover the total due up to March 2019.
9. Windmills Opportunity Playgroup will pay rent of £850 per annum (previously £270 pa.). The rent is now due for the period January 2016 – March 2019 which amounts to £2724.66.
10. Sheddingdean Community Centre is a valuable community resource that the Council supports by providing rent free accommodation. The facility benefits the local neighbourhood by providing a base for the nursery and a venue for social activities, which encourage good health and wellbeing.

Financial Implications

11. The financial implication of the recommendation of this report is the release of £10,289.46 from the Community and Economic Development Fund.

Legal Implications

12. The revised rents were set as the result of a property evaluation when the previous leases expired. Legal and surveyors fees were waived and the rates are reduced due to the charitable status of the tenants.

Risk Management Implications

13. None