

## **BRECKLAND COUNCIL**

### **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PLACE SHAPING to the CABINET: 8 JUNE 2010** **(Author: Rob Walker, Communities and Place Shaping Manager)**

#### **DEREHAM MEMORIAL HALL: MATCH FUNDING APPLICATION**

##### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 This report seeks Cabinet approval to grant Dereham Town Council £250,000 from the Breckland Council Match Funding Reserve toward the refurbishment and extension of the Dereham Memorial Hall.

##### **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1 Approve the match funding application for £250,000 from Dereham Town Council for the Dereham Memorial Hall project to be funded from the Breckland Council Match Funding Reserve.

**Note:** In preparing this report, due regard has been had to equality of opportunity, human rights, prevention of crime and disorder, environmental and risk management considerations as appropriate. Relevant officers have been consulted in relation to any legal, financial or human resources implications and comments received are reflected in the report.

##### **3. Information, Issues and Options**

###### **3.1 Background**

3.1.1 As detailed in an earlier Cabinet report (date: 4 August 2009) all applications for Breckland Council Match Funding are now reviewed by a Grant Funding Panel prior to consideration in a single committee report by Cabinet. The application from Dereham Town Council has been considered by the Grant Panel and the recommendation is as detailed above. However, given the size and significance of the Dereham Town Council match funding application it was deemed appropriate to bring this item as a stand alone report for consideration by Cabinet [separate from the Grant Panel report].

3.1.2 Breckland Council has two standard match funding grant schemes: 1) for small grants up to £3000 and 50% match; 2) for large grants up to £20,000 and 30% match. The Dereham Town Council application falls outside these schemes at £250,000 and 11% match. This does not prohibit the funding being granted. Under the terms and conditions of the match funding scheme applications for more than £20,000 should be considered on an individual case-by-case basis.

3.1.3 A detailed Business Plan for the Dereham Memorial Hall project is provided in the appendices of this report.

###### **3.2 Issues**

3.2.1 The refurbishment and extension of the Dereham Memorial Hall will improve the quality of life in Dereham and surrounding areas by developing the social and cultural opportunities on offer locally. This will be achieved through the delivery of the following objectives: -

- Extending the role of the Hall as a live performance venue
- Increasing the availability of community meeting rooms

- Increasing the number of people attending cultural activities
- Increasing participation of young people in positive activities
- Extending the Hall's use as an arts venue
- Enhancing the position of the Hall as a memorial to those who died on active service
- Improved income generation from commercial letterings
- Flagship site for sustainable, low carbon operation

3.2.2 It is anticipated that 50,000 people will use the Dereham Memorial Hall each year and that it will benefit 20 organisations over the same period.

3.2.3 The total cost of the project is £2,279,887. This cost is being met directly by Dereham Town Council (£499,887), through the sale of land by the Town Council (£230,000), through a loan secured by the Town Council (£1,300,000). Funding is requested from Breckland Council to address the £250,000 shortfall in the overall budget (11% match).

3.2.4 Funding of £44,901 was awarded by Breckland in 2006 towards this project of which a maximum of £13,816 was towards the feasibility and business plan. Only £5,504 has been accessed leaving £8,312 to be released towards the feasibility (if appropriate) and £31,084.86 which was to be released subject to a fully worked up proposal. This new application supersedes the original application so release of new funding should be subject to confirming whether the remaining £8,312 is required and also putting the £31,084.86 back into the revenue match Funding Reserve prior to release of a new allocation of £250,000

### **3.3 Options**

3.3.1 To approve the match funding application for £250,000 from Dereham Town Council for the Dereham Memorial Hall project

3.3.2 To reject the match funding application for £250,000 from Dereham Town Council for the Dereham Memorial Hall project

### **3.4 Reasons for Recommendations**

3.4.1 The Dereham Memorial Hall is a flagship venue for Dereham and the district as a whole. The refurbishment and extension of the Hall will enable a greater range of community activities to take place with increased participation by Breckland residents and visitors to the area. A Business Plan has been developed and consideration has been given to financial viability and sustainability. £250,000 is a large commitment on behalf of Breckland Council but represents only 11% of the overall project cost, with a significant contribution coming from Dereham Town Council themselves.

## **4. Risk and Financial Implications**

### **4.1 Risk**

4.1.2 Risk has been given careful consideration, and there are no significant risks associated with the information in this report. This project represents a significant commitment on the part of Dereham Town Council, with a sizable loan secured to part fund the project. However, the ongoing financial viability and sustainability of the Hall has been given consideration in the Business Plan.

### **4.2 Financial**

4.2.1 Please see the attached Proforma B

## **5. Legal Implications**

5.1 None

## **6. Other Implications**

- a) Equalities: None
- b) Section 17, Crime & Disorder Act 1998: None
- c) Section 40, Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006: None
- d) Human Resources: None
- e) Human Rights: None
- f) Other: [e.g. Children's Act 2004] None

## **7. Alignment to Council Priorities**

7.1 The matter raised in this report falls within the following Breckland Council priorities: -

- Building Safer and Stronger Communities
- Prosperous Communities

## **8. Ward/Community Affected**

8.1 All Dereham Wards and surrounding communities.

### Lead Contact Officer:

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### Key Decision Status (Executive Decisions only):

*This is not a key decision*

### Appendices attached to this report:

1. Proforma B
2. Dereham Memorial Business Plan