

## Ostensible Authority Report – The Maybury Centre

### Background

The Council has supported the Maybury Centre through the Community Grants Scheme for many years and, at its meeting on 27 February 2020, the Executive agreed to extend the annual funding into the 2020/21 financial year. It was resolved that funding of £33,683 be awarded towards the cost of the Maybury Centre (£4,683), the Liaise Women's Centre (£15,000) and the Schoolhouse Project (£14,000). In addition, a capital award of £4,000 was approved towards kitchen and storage equipment at the Centre.

### Current Position

The Maybury Centre has applied to the SCC Hardship Fund for a grant of £10,000, stating that the grant would assist with the running costs during the Covid-19 period and enable the Centre to open and begin to recover financially. The Centre's main priority and reason for applying for funding was stated to be supporting the community with the increased challenges faced due to the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown. Its aim is to support people and ensure that the relationships across the community continue by offering facilities where groups can hold vital and key events needed. The application states that if funding cannot be sourced to help the Centre recover it could face closure.

The budget supplied by the Centre states that the Total Expenditure for the 2020/21 financial year is circa £106,315. The majority of the income is achieved from lettings and usually equates to around £85,000. With the Centre being closed it has resulted in a significant drop in income. Reserves of around £34,000 are held, equating to around four months' expenditure.

Saba Hussain, Strategic Lead for Partnerships at Surrey County Council, has contacted the Council and stated that the application does not really meet the criteria for the Hardship Fund, although notes that the Centre is based within an area of high need and is also an important hub for the local community. Saba has stated that if Woking Borough Council consider that the future of the Centre is high risk, the Hardship Fund would offer a grant of £5,000 subject to the Borough Council match funding with a further grant of £5,000. The total level of grant awarded would therefore be £10,000, as applied for.

### Consultee Comments

Refeia Zaman (Senior Policy Officer)

The Maybury Centre provides an important facility for a diverse local community and has suffered from a substantial drop in income because of the current environment caused by the pandemic. The grant would enable them to work towards recovery and resuming its services to the local community.

### Considerations

The Chief Executive has consulted Leading Members who are content for Ostensible Authority to be used for awarding a grant of £5,000 to be paid during the 2020/21 financial year from the Community Fund towards the running costs of the Maybury Centre during the Covid-19 period. The grant is conditional on match funding of £5,000 being awarded from the SCC Hardship Fund.

**It is therefore agreed that the sum of £5,000 be paid from the Community Fund, subject to match funding being awarded from the SCC Hardship Fund, towards the running costs of the Maybury Centre.**

**Authorised under Ostensible Authority in consultation with the Leader of the Council by:**

**Ray Morgan  
Chief Executive**

**Date:**