
Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	23rd January 2018
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/16/18/MM
Contact Officer:	Martin McNab	Contact No:	01475 714246
Subject:	Community Waivers Saving Proposal		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek approval in principle from the Committee of savings in the Community Waivers budget.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Community Waivers are currently granted to a number of categories of organisations. The budget is demand lead and tighter rules were implemented in 2014 to make the use of hall waivers fairer and more transparent. The budget historically was used to offset lost income as a result of waivers granted in halls and in the school estate.
- 2.2 This report brings forward savings proposals in the Community Waivers budget which is now mainly used for direct payment to Inverclyde Leisure for access to halls under IL's control for eligible organisations.
- 2.3 These savings proposals, following Committee approval, will be progressed and prepared as far as is feasible, subject to the Council's consideration of this budget item and immediate steps will be taken to engage with relevant stakeholders within appropriate timescales.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves the savings proposals detailed in Section 5, in principle, prior to their submission to the Council as part of the budget setting process.

Martin McNab
Acting Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Community Waivers are currently granted to a number of categories of organisations. The budget is demand lead and tighter rules were implemented in 2014 to make the use of hall waivers fairer and more transparent. The budget historically was used to offset lost income as a result of waivers granted in halls and in the school estate.
- 4.2 When community halls were transferred to Inverclyde Leisure the element of waivers going to subsidise this use became a real cost to the Council as opposed to being used to offset foregone income. The majority of community waivers are granted in halls rather than schools, with the main exception being school use by uniformed organisations. It is proposed that we deal with the costs of uniformed organisations' use of schools through the Community Facilities Review rather than through the Community Waivers Reduction as their costs are currently not charged against the Community Waivers Budget.
- 4.3 The current Community Waivers Budget is £89K. In 2016-17 there was a budget underspend which was used to partially offset an underachievement of income in the school estate.

5.0 PROPOSAL

- 5.1 As there is a strong possibility of the underachievement of income recurring in 2017-18, it is proposed to permanently vire £30K from Community Waivers to School Estate income to regularise the position. This would partially offset waivers granted in the school estate which are further discussed in the Community Facilities Review report.
- 5.2 An estimated saving of £9.5K can be made by ensuring that current eligibility rules are applied more stringently. The main effect of this would be to prevent the use of halls by a number of council services which are currently using them for internal meetings or long term lets to deliver day to day services.
- 5.3 The removal of the free waiver for Council Services entirely would make a further saving of £3.5K. It is however proposed that Community Engagement events and CLD service delivery should still be supported. The latter's access was originally specifically funded by a reduction in the service budget to set up the community waivers budget. Lets for externally funded services would be charged however.
- 5.4 Capping funding to all eligible organisations at a maximum of £3K per annum would make a further saving of £5.9K.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

- 6.1 There is likely to be some effect on Inverclyde Leisure's income from the above saving. It is not anticipated however that all use currently funded through the Community Waivers budget will cease.

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
00498 Community Division	60034 Waivers	2018/19	(£48.9K)		£18.9K direct saving plus £30K Virement to School Estate Income

Legal

6.2 None

Human Resources

6.3 None

Equalities

6.4 None

Repopulation

6.5 None

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 The CMT has reviewed the proposal in detail and has fully endorsed the report's recommendations.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.