

REPORT TO CABINET

Title: **HINDU COMMUNITY CENTRE - PETITION**

Date: 24 June 2010

Member Reporting: Cllr Dudley, Lead member for Adult & Community Services

Contact Officer(s): Kevin Mist, Head of Leisure Services
Harjit Hunjan, Community & Business Partnerships Manager

Wards Affected: This report will impact on all wards

1. SUMMARY

Cllr D. Wilson presented a petition urging the Borough to provide a community centre for the Hindu Community in the Borough to use for religious, cultural and social occasions.

The petition was signed by 350 people.

2. RECOMMENDATION: That;

- i) **Officers from the Adult & Community Services directorate meet with representatives from the Hindu community to determine what options are available to assist the Hindu community in its aspirations to have a community centre;**
- ii) **The lead petitioner be informed of the resolution of this report.**

What will be different for residents as a result of this decision?
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Members of the Hindu community will have access to officer assistance to develop their aspirations for a Hindu Community centre.
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3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Background

There are approximately 500 members of the Hindu community in the Maidenhead area and many are active in the community foundation.

There are currently Hindu community centres in Slough and Reading which members of the Maidenhead, Ascot and Windsor community visit.

The Hindu community would like a centre that provides facilities for religious, cultural, social, arts, sports and languages for young and old. The centre would provide a day centre for older members, a venue for marriages and for meetings. The Hindu society has a full calendar of events many of these are held in people's homes, as they do not always have a venue. Not all the events have a religious theme e.g. in July this year they are holding an event to highlight Social and Welfare Services to the community, and have held Yoga and fitness classes

The Borough has in the past facilitated the development of centres for community groups by locating possible sites for purchase by the group and with advice for fundraising and selection of design teams. The Borough has worked with faith groups and has sold land to them at market rate; it has however not directly funded any purchases of land or buildings.

Officers will also advise the petitioner to use the services of the planning department with their pre-application advice on properties and planning issues.

Officers have discussed the petition with the petitioner and they are aware of the process to be followed. The petitioner will attend Cabinet and speak to the petition.

3.2 Financial

Any organisation proceeding with this type of facility is likely to require capital funding of £1m and revenue costs of £100k annually. Advice on detailed budgets would be given to the organisation/ group during the officer meetings with the petitioner. The officer working group is likely to include the Council's Funding Manager and the Community and Business Partnership Manager. As part of initial working with the petitioner a comprehensive and detailed project plan would be formulated.

4. OPTIONS AVAILABLE AND RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 Options

	Option	Comments	Financial Implications
1.	Do-nothing	This option is not recommended	
2.	Officers of RBWM meet with members of the Hindu community to assist them in developing plans for funding and operating a community centre in the Borough. Limited to under 10 officer hours.	This is the recommended option	Officer time

4.2 Risk assessment

If the report is accepted, officer time will be allocated to the project. This officer could have been allocated to other potential projects. Likely to be a maximum of 3-4 meetings for the development of a detailed project plan.

5. CONSULTATIONS CARRIED OUT

The Windsor and Maidenhead Community Foundation have been consulted with and are fully supportive of the petition.

6. COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

7. IMPLICATIONS

The following implications have been addressed where indicated below.

There are implications for Diversity and Equality and full impact assessment would be required.

Financial	Legal	Human Rights Act	Planning	Sustainable Development	Diversity & Equality
✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓

Background Papers:

- None

 Authorisation:

	Legal	Finance	Planning	Property	Procurement	DMT
Name:						
Date Approved:						

	Directors Group	Lead Member	Ward Cllrs (if Appropriate)	Leader's Office	Scrutiny Panel
Name:				Cllr Burbage	
Date Approved:				4/6/10	