

EASTLEIGH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 19 January 2021

FINANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

Report of the Local Area Manager

Recommendations

It is recommended that

- (1) £10,000 is allocated for stream bank re-enforcement at 8 Oaklands, Chandler's Ford from the revenue budget;
 - (2) £20,000 is allocated for the Summer 2021 event from the revenue reserve;
 - (3) £5,200 is allocated for the Velmore Youth Café 21/22 from the revenue reserve;
 - (4) £5,000 is allocated for the Mela 2021 from the revenue reserve;
 - (5) £2,000 is allocated for Park Sport 2021 from the revenue reserve;
 - (6) £1,400 is allocated for the Lantern Parade 2021 from the revenue reserve;
 - (7) £1,000 is allocated for Pride 2021 from the revenue reserve;
 - (8) £750 is allocated for Friday Night Football 21/22 from the revenue reserve;
 - (9) £6,000 is allocated for town centre flowers from the revenue budget; and
 - (10) £5,000 is allocated for enhanced autumn leaf clearance from the revenue budget.
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Summary

This report contains recommendations for expenditure from the Committee's capital budget and revenue budget.

Statutory Powers

Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 ie, the Local Authority's general power of competence, including power to act for the benefit of its area or persons resident or present in its area.

Strategic Implications

2. The recommendations in this report support the Council's approach to localism (Local First) by allocating devolved resources to meet local needs. The recommendations align with Corporate Plan objectives of Tackling Deprivation, Enabling Healthier Lifestyles and Wellbeing, Supporting an Excellent Environment, and Reinvigorating Town and Local Centres.

Stream Bank repairs to the rear of Oaklands, Chandlers' Ford

3. A tributary of the Monks Brook runs through the Council-owned land in the North End Copse Nature Park. This runs alongside the rear boundaries of the back gardens of the houses on Oaklands in Chandlers' Ford. The stream has created a small meander, which is now threatening the boundary behind number 8 Oaklands. The Environment Agency has inspected the site and requested that the stream bed be cleared to prevent flooding and that the bank at this point be re-enforced to prevent encroachment into the private properties.
4. The Transport and Engineering Team have been asked to prepare a detailed design and cost estimate. It is anticipated that this will be between £5,000 - £10,000. It is therefore recommended that up to £10,000 is allocated for these works from the contingency revenue budget.

Town centre event 2021

5. Councillors have supported large town centre events in recent years. These include the Celebration of Steam in 2017, followed by two consecutive Eastleigh Remembers events in 2018 and 2019. Local Councillors allocated the funds for a further event in 2020, but this was cancelled due to Covid-19.
6. Councillors would like to run a similar event in the summer of 2021, if circumstances allow. While the theme is yet to be confirmed it is hoped that we will be able to celebrate the end of Covid restrictions and thank all those involved in supporting the wider community through this traumatic time.
7. £10,000 previously allocated to the Summer 2020 event from the revenue reserve was reallocated at the September 2020 meeting of this Committee for a summer cultural programme for the town centre. £10,000 is therefore available to carry forward to the 2021 event. Councillors would now like to allocate a further £10,000 to create a total event budget of £20,000 from the revenue reserve.

Regular events and services

8. Each year this Committee allocates funding for a range of events and projects from the local revenue reserve budget. Councillors have agreed to fund the projects set out in the table below from the revenue reserve, again subject to restrictions being lifted:

Regular events and recurring services	Allocation
Velmore Youth Café 21/22, 50% funding matched by Chandler's Ford and Hiltingbury Parish Council for a one day a week youth drop-in session at the Velmore Centre	£5,200
Eastleigh Mela 2021	£5,000

Park Sport 2021	£2,000
Lantern Parade 2021	£1,400
Eastleigh Pride 2021	£1,000
Friday Night Football 2021	£750
Total	£15,350

9. The Velmore Youth Café was only able to run for 50% of 2020/21 providing a saving of £2,600. This, combined with the cancellation of the Mela, the Lantern Parade, Pride 2020 and Friday Night Football means that a total of £10,750 is available to carry forward to fund these events and services in 2021/22. It is therefore recommended that a further £4,600 is allocated for the above events and services from the revenue reserve.

Town centre flowers

10. Every town centre in the country has been severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and Eastleigh is no exception. This Committee has funded a range of cultural events and attractions, from performers and public art to a new craft market in the lead up to Christmas, to help maintain the town's appeal and footfall, while retaining the required social distancing. As part of this offer the Council paid £5,700 for 100 hanging baskets throughout the town. Councillors would like to continue with this initiative in future years as part of a wider package to help the town recover. It is therefore recommended that £6,000 is allocated to town centre flowers from the revenue budget.

Autumn leaf clearance

11. Each Autumn the Council's Streetscene team collects the leaves falling in the town's roads and open spaces. The current service provides four regular collections across all the affected roads, together with a responsive service following reports from local residents.
12. In recent years there have been a consistent number of complaints that the current level of leaf clearance is insufficient. This makes walking along some or worst affected footpaths inconvenient and even hazardous, especially when combined with freezing conditions. It also leads to localised flooding when highway gullies are blocked.
13. Councillors would like to enhance the current service in order to improve customer satisfaction, the quality of our local environment and reduce flooding. An additional collection round will cost £5,000 every year. It is therefore recommended that £5,000 is allocated for this service from the revenue budget.

Changes to budget allocation

14. Over the past year there have been three changes to the originally allocated budget source. The following table sets these out for clarification.

Activity	Original amount	Original funding source/ Committee date	Revised funding source
Town Centre Event 2020	£20,000	Revenue Budget – 15/09/20	£10,000 from the Revenue Reserve allocation for the Summer 2020 Town Centre Covid Support programme. £10,000 underspend now available to allocate to the Town Centre Event 2021, as recommended in paragraph 7 above.
Town Centre Festive programme	£6,000	Revenue Reserve - 17/11/20	£6,000 from 2020 Christmas Event revenue budget
Eastleigh Market	£5,000	Revenue Reserve - 17/11/20	£5,000 from 2020 Christmas Event revenue budget

Equality Impact Assessment

15. An Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out for this report, as all the events and services are designed to be inclusive, however separate further consideration of the inclusivity and accessibility aspect of each event and service will be carried out as part of the project delivery.
16. For example, Councillors have requested that the town centre events programme fully engages young people in the design and delivery and also that it appeals to all ethnic groups. The activities will be provided free of charge, to enable those who are suffering the economic impact of Covid or on low incomes to participate.
17. The Annual Mela and Pride events are strong examples of the Council meeting the aim of the Equalities Act 2010 relating to promoting good relations between people with different characteristics.

Climate Change and Environmental Implications

18. The stream bank improvement in North End Nature Park will transform a very local area, where local residents have attempted to prevent erosion using a range of rubble and paving slabs combined with brush from nearby trees. The works will improve appearance of this area for park users and the reduce the likelihood of localised flooding.
19. The clearance of leaves across the town will also prevent flooding and the Streetscene team are investigating how the collected leaves can be composted locally to provide a source of mulch for use in parks and open space. The aim being to improve soil and plant health and increase water retention. The combined effect will increase the resilience of our local parks in the face of increasing summer droughts.

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Appendices Attached: None

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - SECTION 100D

The following is a list of documents which disclose facts or matters on which this report or an important part of it is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. This list does not include any published works or documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information.

None