

EASTLEIGH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 18 January 2022

FINANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT AND NEW PARISH COUNCILS

Report of the Local Area Manager

Recommendations

- (1) The formation of the New Parishing Working Group, nominated representatives and the Terms of Reference are noted;
- (2) £500 is allocated for the Summer Bandstand Programme from the Revenue Budget;
- (3) £6,000 is allocated for the Energy Centre Facilities Management costs from the Revenue Reserve;
- (4) £3,000 is allocated for a Christmas Lights Switch-on Event Organiser from the Revenue Reserve;
- (5) £10,000 is allocated to the Community Grant Fund from the Revenue Reserve;
- (6) £1,500 is allocated to the Youth Grant from the Revenue Reserve;
- (7) £5,200 is allocated to the Velmore Youth Café from the Revenue Reserve; and
- (8) £27,000 is allocated for the 2022 Events programme from the Revenue Reserve as set out in paragraph 18.

Summary

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

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.

New Parish Councils

3. In February 2021 the Administration Committee and subsequently Council approved the creation of two new parishes, a new Boyatt Wood Parish Council and a separate Eastleigh Parish Council.
4. A Parish Council Working Group has been established, made up of Councillors from this Committee, Council Officers and an interim Clerk. This meets regularly to review progress and proposed actions to be taken between now and the elections in May 2022, in line with the Terms of Reference shown in Appendix A. Councillors Bourne, Bicknell, Irish, Clarke, Tyson-Payne, Park and Campbell have been nominated to join the Group.
5. The Working Group will make representations and recommendations only. There will be no delegated power to take decisions. Decisions on behalf of the Parish Councils will be taken by full Council, for example the creation of a budget and precept setting.
6. The Working Group has already met on 1st and 25th November to discuss a list of potential asset transfers and parish precepts for the 2022-23.
7. It is recommended that the Committee formally notes the formation of the Working Group, the Terms of Reference and appointment of Councillors.

Bandstand Concerts

8. The Arts and Culture Team, based at The Point successfully ran the Summer Bandstand Programme for 2021, at a cost of £1,500. Within this fee they recruit artists, curate the programme, provide technical staff support for artists at the venue, lend out this committee's PA sound system if required and market the programme. Last year this provided at least one performance every weekend. With an additional £500 it is anticipated the frequency can increase to two bands on the weekends where there are no conflicting events.
9. It is recommended that the Summer Bandstand Programme budget is increased to an ongoing £2,000 per annum, funded by a £500 re-allocation from the Committee's Contingency Fund.

Energy Building Facilities Management

10. The Committee is jointly procuring a three-year Youth Service contract with two other Local Areas. This is now due to commence in April 2022. Unlike the current contract, the new service does not include a building supervision element for the Energy Youth Centre, which included marketing the space to other youth service providers, co-ordinating room hires, key holding and induction, regular safety checks and CCTV monitoring. This element of the service will now be provided by the Council's Facilities Management Service.

11. External hires of the building are difficult to predict in light of the Covid 19 pandemic, but based on 2019 room bookings, a budget of £3,000 is deemed sufficient for a normal year's service.
12. It is recommended £6,000 is allocated for this service to cover two full years from the Energy Centre Reserve Budget, to be reviewed at the end of 2022/23.

Christmas Lights Switch-on Event Organiser

13. The Christmas Lights Switch-on Event is the most popular event held each year in the town centre, with over 16,000 people attending in November 2021.
14. The Local Area Manager has been the event organiser for the past ten years and the time required for the operational work involved has increased steadily. It is now recommended that a professional event organiser is hired to manage this event in order to allow the Local Area Manager to focus on delivering the Committee's Strategic priorities.
15. Based on previous experience with the Committee's Summer Remembrance events, a provisional budget estimate of £3,000 is recommended to fund a one-year trial. It is therefore recommended that £3,000 is allocated for an event organiser for the 2022 event from the Revenue Reserve.

Community Grants

16. The £10,000 Local Area Community Grant Fund comprises £5,000 each year from the on-going Revenue Budget and £5,000 from the Revenue Reserve. The original £15,000 Reserve allocation comes to an end in 2022/23. A top up is required for future years and it is therefore recommended that a further £10,000 is allocated from the Revenue Reserve, with £5,000 each year for 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Youth Grants

17. The June 2019 meeting approved the allocation of an annual £3,000 youth grant, with £1,500 funded from the Revenue Budget on an on-going basis and £1,500 one-off funding from the Revenue Reserve, topped-up on an annual basis.
18. It was intended that the grant would be managed by a new Eastleigh Youth Council. Unfortunately, the Youth Council has been unable to meet due to the Pandemic and the Youth Grant has therefore not been distributed to date.
19. It is recommended that the Youth Partnership Co-ordinator now promotes the £3,000 Youth Grant, with a view to distributing the grant within the current financial year, and that this be funded from the existing Revenue Budget and the allocation of £1,500 from the Revenue Reserve.

Velmore Youth Café

20. The Velmore Youth Café provides a safe, supportive drop-in facility for one day a week, in an area of relative deprivation for a group of young people that display a high level of need. The annual cost of delivering the session is £10,200. Chandler's Ford and Hiltingbury Parish Council have agreed to fund half the cost of the service. During 2021/22 the youth service provider was only able to deliver six months of activity due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, leading to an underspend of £2,600.
21. Councillors wish to continue to provide the service and it is therefore recommended that a further £5,200 is allocated from the Revenue Reserve, combined with the £2,600 underspend, to provide a total £7,800 funding for a further 18 months from April 2022.

2022 events programme

22. Each year the Committee allocates funding for a range of regular events. It is recommended that these are again funded with an allocation of £27,000 from the Revenue Reserve as set out below in table below.
23. In addition, the Lantern Parade planned for October 2021 was cancelled due to ill-health of the event organiser. Councillors would like to run the event in 2022 and it is recommended that the 2021 allocation is carried forward.

2022 events programme	
Eastleigh Mela 2022	£5,000
Park Sport 2022	£2,000
Eastleigh Pride 2022	£1,000
Friday Night Football 2022	£2,000
Summer Event	£17,000
Total	£27,000

Events carried forward from 2021	
Lantern Parade 2022	£1,400

Financial Implications

24. All expenditure within this report can be funded from existing approved revenue budgets.

Equality and Diversity Implications

25. An Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out for this report, as the projects are designed to be inclusive, however, separate further consideration of the inclusivity and accessibility aspect will be carried out as part of the event/project delivery.

26. The events described in this report are designed to appeal to the town's diverse population. Each event will be further assessed to maximise the attendance from those from protected groups.

Climate Change and Environmental Implications

27. The events are also designed to better serve local and nearby residents, with an accessible, affordable cultural programme, which minimises the need to travel.

Conclusion

28. This report recommends the allocation of the Committee's Revenue and Revenue Reserve Budgets to provide a programme that helps support the cultural regeneration for the town and meet the needs of our local residents.

GUY RIDDOCH
LOCAL AREA MANAGER

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Appendices Attached: One

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.

One.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR BOYATT WOOD AND EASTLEIGH PARISHING WORKING GROUP

Title

The name of this working group is Boyatt Wood and Eastleigh Parishing Working Group. It is a non-decision-making group made up of Members of the Eastleigh Local Area Committee and officers.

Purpose

The purpose of this Working Group is:

- To make recommendations on the new parishes and their parish councils
- actively promote the councils in advance of forthcoming elections
- To consider and recommend a budget and Precept
- To consider and make recommendation to Cabinet for timetable of transfer of assets. discuss issues, explore options and carry out specific task focussed activities as defined by the Council.

Roles and Responsibilities

The role of this working group is to consider matters concerning Boyatt Wood Parish and Eastleigh Parish Councils.

The Working Group will:

- Offer advice and guidance (as required)
- Identify any opportunities
- Read all relevant reports and attend the monthly meetings, and follow up on assigned actions

Core Membership:

Membership of this Working Group is to be drawn from Councillors and Council officers. Individuals with specialist skills and expertise may also assist as and when required.

Membership is to be a minimum of 3 persons, 1 of whom must act as Chair.

- Councillors - Councillors Bourne, Bicknell, Campbell, Clarke, Irish, Park, Tyson-Payne - To represent residents of the Local Area and from vesting date until the date when elected parish councillors take office to act in the capacity of Parish Councillor
- Sponsor – Jo Cassar (Chair) - The sponsor is ultimately accountable for the activity of the Group
- Clerk – Tracy Predeth (Vice-Chair) - Able to advise on the planning obligations that are in place, that may result in a community building transfer to EBC, and then on to the Parish. To act as proper officer of each parish

council

- Local Area Manager – Guy Riddoch - Can advise on local priorities, and information
- Project Manager – Nicola Treeby
- Legal (Solicitor) – Naomi Dabiri/Helen Devereux - Is there to advise on legal considerations relating to the process, legal resource constraints, and other elements

Officers to be invited to provide advice:

- Lead Asset Manager – Liz Suatt - Is there to advise and offer guidance on strategic property and land, design of community assets (buildings), asset transfers and Asset Management resource constraints.
- Finance Representative – Andy Smith
- Neighbourhood Services representative – Paul Naylor
- Elections – Sam Jones

Quorum

The working group can only go ahead with 5 attendees or more and must include the following in attendance, a minimum of 3 Councillors, the Clerk and Chair. Depending on the specific agenda items, other functions may be a requirement as well.

Delegated Authority

The working group have no delegated responsibilities or decision-making powers. The group can offer advice, guidance, and make recommendations to Cabinet and/or Council in line with Eastleigh Borough Council's Constitution.

Meetings

The Boyatt Wood and Eastleigh Parish Working Group will meet on a monthly basis. Agendas and papers will be circulated 5 clear working days ahead of the scheduled meeting date. Meeting will take place via Office 365 Teams.

Meeting Etiquette

Will follow the rules and code of conduct set out in the Constitution.