

Allocation of Members Discretionary Budget 2018/19

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Purpose of the Report

To update members on the progress of Area Priorities agreed last year and confirm the allocation of the Members Discretionary budget towards existing priority projects.

Public Interest

Update on priorities and agree continued support for projects and initiatives in Area East for the forthcoming year.

Recommendation

That Members approve:

- (1) Maintaining the allocation towards priority projects and note the progress.
- (2) Approve moving £4790 from the Members Discretionary Budget to the Area East Capital Reserve.

Background

Members agreed the priorities set out in the draft Area Development Plan at the meeting of Area East in June 2018.

The Members Discretionary Budget (MDB) allocations are agreed annually providing a fund which is used to address the priorities of the Area Committee, it has enabled us to proactively support a variety of research projects and other interventions adding value or 'gap filling' in a very flexible way.

Progress on remaining Area Development Plan priorities

Members agreed to ring-fence the Members Discretionary budget for 2018/19 for the delivery of key projects at the meeting of AEC in March 2018.

In the report taken to April 18 committee, members agreed the allocation of funds in the Members' Discretionary budget for priority projects. The funding distribution against agreed priorities is set out in the table below.

Priority Project	Allocation £	Description	Progress
Food Fair	£3,000	District wide event to take place in Area East. Additional resource will be used to raise the profile of local food businesses and attract people to the area. Originally £1000 but	Event planned for Saturday 30 th March 2019. Additional budget agreed with Area Chair and Ward Members in order to deliver a destination event for the area.

		increased in line with the scale of the event.	
Rural Transport/Travel Plan Good Practice research	£5,000	Develop a new model of securing contributions towards improved transport provision and to directly support local transport solutions.	Draft brief completed and process underway to identify a consultant to complete a study to underpin a potential new approach to Transport contributions.
Capacity Building for key organisations	£2000 originally allocated, not required so moved to support the Food Fair.	To help key local organisations access professional support to develop business plans to improve resilience and sustainability.	Allocation moved to Food Fair. See above.
AGP Feasibility Study	£2,500	To assess need and identify preferred options for type and location of a new facility for Area East.	This project is now adopted as a priority for the Area East Chapter of the Council Plan. Recommendation is to ring-fence this funding for a local project group.
Heart of Wessex Rail Partnership	£2,000	Regular contribution towards the partnership.	Contribution agreed at AEC meeting in December 2018. Paid.
Heart of Wessex LAG support	£1,000	To help facilitate the work of the Local Action Group.	Retain for meeting space provision etc.
RSI top up/ support for business organisations	£2,850 RSI £2150 Business Support	To develop the RSI scheme and provide opportunities to support local business organisations.	Support given to business associations. RSI not needed in this financial year.
Total	£18,500		

Members Discretionary 2018/19

Regular contributions that are taken from the budget include the following:

Local Information Centre's in Bruton, Castle Cary and Wincanton. - £1,500

Heart of Wessex Rail Partnership - £2,000

Financial Implications

There is currently £4,790 unallocated in the Members Discretionary Budget for 18/19. Elsewhere within the agenda Members will be considering a community grant request, to ensure that sufficient funds are available should Members wish to endorse this funding request it is suggested that the £4790 unspent balance in the Members Discretionary Budget is moved to the Area East Capital Reserve.

If members agree the recommendations in this report, there will be no unallocated balance in the Members Discretionary Budget for 18/19.

Corporate Priority Implications

Focus Four: Health & Communities: encouraging communities to be healthy, self-reliant and with individuals who are willing to help each other.

Carbon Emissions & Climate Change Implications

Providing local access to a range of activities and services reducing the need to travel which therefore reduces carbon emissions.

Equality and Diversity Implications

The loss of services designed to meet the needs of the most disadvantaged in target communities is likely to have a significant effect over time.

Background Papers: