

Charter Trustees Budget for 2019/20

Recommendations passed by SWT Council on 16th July 2019

Somerset West and Taunton Council **RESOLVED** to:-

- a) Transfer the 2019/20 Unparished Area budget of £46,399, to be allocated in line with the approved scope and governance of the Charter Trustees including the cost of the mayoralty, support costs and local grants scheme.
- b) Transfer the balance of unallocated legacy funds from previous years' TDBC Unparished Area Special Expenses Precept, to be administered by the Charter Trustees of the Town of Taunton.
- c) The transfer of legacy balance and future CIL Infrastructure Payments derived from the Unparished Area to the Charter Trustees of the Town of Taunton, once appropriate governance arrangements have been devised by the Charter Trustees to the satisfaction of the SWTC Head of Performance and Governance and the S151 Officer.
- d) Recommend the relevant Head of Function consults the Mayor, as representative of the Trustees, regarding the allocation of the legacy General Fund Unparished Area Play Equipment Capital Budget for use within the unparished area.
- e) The Charter Trustees be required to satisfy the SWTC S151 Officer that there are appropriate arrangements in place for the proper administration of and accounting for the funds to be transferred.
- f) Note that in future years, the Charter Trustees will be in a position to raise its own precept to fund its responsibilities.

Recommendations

That the Taunton Charter Trustees **resolve** to;

- a) Approve the Budget for the Charter Trustees of Taunton for 2019/20 until 31st March 2020 with the following allocations;
- b) As recommended by the Joint Independent Recommendation Panel (JIRP) and the Shadow Council approve the award of a Special Responsibility Allowance for 2019/20 for the Mayor of Taunton at £2,930 and £1,570 for the Deputy Mayor for Taunton.
- c) That CPIH be used to inflation-index both Mayoral allowances in future years.
- d) That after a year's experience of the offices of Mayor and Deputy Mayor, the allowances be reviewed by the JIRP.

- e) Approve an amount of circa £500 for insurance costs associated with the Historic Civic Regalia, Insignia and Silver and associated property that vested with the Charter Trustees on 1 April 2019. (£505.85 was the cost in 18/19).
- f) Ring-fence an amount from the budget to be spent entirely on Mayoral activities such as travel expenses and event organisation and hosting within the unparished area. Based on estimates from previous years spend and depending on activities planned this is suggested as being an amount that should not exceed £10-£15,000.

As per the report which went to SWT Full Council - Somerset West and Taunton Council is expected to provide accommodation and staffing support for the Charter Trustees for the first year, and could if it wished provide other support by agreement. It is intended that the support provided by the Councils various support staff including the Governance and Finance team shall be recorded to enable a true reflected picture to be reported back to the Charter Trustee's in advance of them raising their own precept for 2020/21.

Summary of Funding Available

The following table provides an update to the financial information included within the published report to Full Council.

Unparished Area Special Expenses	SWTC £	Charter Trustees £
2018/19 Legacy balance transferred from TDBC to SWTC on 1 April 2019	85,952	
Amounts paid out by SWTC in 2019/20 (as at 3 July 2019) against previously agreed commitments	-23,315	
Amounts committed through prior year decisions but not yet settled – to be retained and paid by SWTC	-30,012	
Prior year funds balance to be transferred to Charter Trustees	-37,625	37,625
2019/20 Special Expenses Precept to be transferred to Charter Trustees		46,399
Amounts provisionally committed or held in abeyance through prior year decisions, to be considered by the Charter Trustees Standing Committee		-30,630
Balance as at 16 July 2019	0	48,394
<i>Mayoral Ring-fenced Spend</i>	-15,000	
<i>Mayor and Deputy Mayor SRA</i>	-4500	
<i>Insurance Costs for Civic Regalia/Silver</i>	-500	
<i>Balance as at 8 August 2019</i>		28,394

The balance of uncommitted funds may be used to pay for the Mayoralty and associated costs, with any residual balance available to distribute as small grants for use within the unparished area.

Special Responsibility Allowance for Mayor and Deputy Mayor

The Charter Trustees predecessor committee the Unparished Area Committee formally requested that the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel look at the allowances for the Mayor and Deputy on 30th January 2019, whose recommendations were then supported at the meeting of the Shadow Council on 26th March 2019 at amounts of £2,930 and £1,570 for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor respectively.

As is customary, the use of the independent JIRP in advising Councillors enables this to be looked at in an impartial manner with proposed allowances. If the Charter Trustees do wish to formally amend the Panel's recommendations this has to be accompanied by clear reasons for departing from the recommendations and these need to be publicised. The JIRP is keen to review the allowances after 12 months of operation.

Unparished Area Play Equipment Capital Budget

Play Equipment Capital Budget	SWTC £
2018/19 Legacy TDBC Capital Budget underspend carried forward and included in 2019/20 SWTC Capital Programme	11,000

£11,000 (rounded) is included in the SWTC 2019/20 Capital Programme Budget, as a carry forward from 2018/19 underspend on the TDBC Capital Programme. This will be formally reported in the Financial Outturn Report to SWTC Executive on 23 July 2019.

This legacy budget was intended to fund play equipment enhancements / replacement within the unparished area of Taunton, as a planned use of a TDBC General Fund Revenue Budget underspend in previous years. The funds are not derived from Special Expenses Precept collected from tax payers within the unparished area.

It is therefore proposed that this budget is retained by SWTC within the General Fund Capital Programme, but the Head of Performance and Governance be requested to consult with the Mayor – as representative of the Charter Trustees – regarding the agreed use of the funds. This aims to ensure suitable consultation for the use of resources is undertaken, whilst maintaining proper financial administration of the Council's General Funds.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Community Infrastructure Levy Balance	SWTC £
Legacy balance of TDBC CIL funds received 2016/17 to 2018/19 related to the unparished area and transferred from TDBC to SWTC on 1 April 2019.	97,746

The balance on 1 April 2019, transferred from TDBC to SWTC, of CIL collected and attributable to development within the unparished area is £97,746. This is based on the 15% share of CIL that would have been allocated to a town or parish council had one existed.

It is proposed that the balance of CIL currently held by SWTC is transferred to the Charter Trustees, with delegated authority from SWTC to the Charter Trustees to administer the funds for their intended purpose within the unparished area. Similarly to transfer any further relevant shares of CIL attributable to the unparished area during 2019/20 and subsequent years for the same purpose.

These transfers are to be dependent on the Charter Trustees establishing appropriate governance and administration arrangements, to the satisfaction of the Head of Performance and Governance and the S151 Officer.