

Cultural and Economic Services Committee

Date: 7 October 2019

Title: Budget update

Purpose of the Report: To monitor Committee budgets

Contact Officer: Vivien Cannon, Head of Economic Development

Corporate Objective/s	LLTC Three Year Plan – Aim 2.	
Implications:		
Financial	√	2019/20 budget update and spend.
Human Resources		
Operational/Service delivery		
Procedural/Legal		
Risk/Health and Safety		

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Should members be minded the recommendations are to:

- 1.1 Note the report.
- 1.2 To allocate up to £250 from the signage earmarked reserves (970/9028) for a brown tourist sign denoting St Mary’s Church, as per para. 2.2.
- 1.3 To allocate up to £7,000 from earmarked reserves (970/9026) to the VE Day celebrations 2020, led by Rotary Leighton Linslade to secure historical entertainments and appropriately mark the historic day as per para 2.3.
- 1.4 To allocate £900 from earmarked reserves (970/9026) to fund an increase in movie showings by three films, associated with the existing Movies for the More Mature scheme, as per para 2.4.
- 1.5 To agree to review the annual budget for the Movies for the More Mature scheme following the pilot in readiness for financial year 2020/21, from £4,500 to £5,400.
- 1.6 To allocate £2,400 from earmarked reserves (970/9026) to extend the pilot scheme to enable a longer period of recruitment and assessment.

2. BUDGET INFORMATION

- 2.1 Current year budget - **Appendix A (attached)** is the budget account sheet for the 2019/20 financial year providing spend information to date.
- 2.2 The Council has been approached by Father Bernard of St Mary's Church requesting funding support for a brown sign to point in the direction and note the 11th Centre Church dedicated to St. Mary. The cost of the sign/s is modest, estimated at a maximum cost of £250 (sign and installation). Should Committee agree to the expenditure, officers will liaise with the Church and Central Bedfordshire Highways to confirm location.
- 2.1 VE Day 75th celebrations take place over the weekend, 8th to 10th May 2020. It was announced that the May Day Bank Holiday, for one year only, would be moved to the following Friday 8th May in acknowledgement of the important historic day. The resulting impact of the change is that the annual May Day celebrations led by Rotary Club Leighton Linslade, has needed to be re-thought. Rotary has approached the Council informing it of their plans to host an event on Saturday 9th May in Parson's Close Recreation Ground. The event will be scaled back from normal and will be sympathetic to the occasion.
- 2.2 The above change has a real impact on Rotary's ability to raise income to deliver the event that the community has come to expect. Considering the importance of this national anniversary weekend, Rotary has invited the Council to enter into a collaborative approach in delivering the event. Rotary will continue to host the event and requests that the Council contribute £7,000 towards entertainment that is in-keeping. Included in the budget will be an activity that recognises residents who are 75 years of age and above, giving them a mock ration book, which provides them free tea and cake. The latter being a reminder of how life was like when they were growing up in the war period. Rotary's briefing letter is attached at **Appendix B** (to follow).
- 2.3 Committee continues to fund the very successful Movies for the More Mature scheme which offers concessionary film tickets for residents of 55 years and over. The scheme works in collaboration with Leighton Buzzard Library Theatre (Central Bedfordshire Council). Officers have received the request from the Library Theatre to expand the scheme on to officer films during the daytime during the winter season.
- 2.4 Council currently funds up to 15 films annually. The proposal is to increase this to 18 films per year, showing the additional films during the winter months to give attendees the chance to see more films during the day once the night draws in earlier. The annual budget currently supporting the scheme is set at £4,500 for 15 films. The proposal would be to increase this by £900. Officers recommend that Committee utilise earmarked reserves, 970/9026, to fund this increase as a pilot for this winter season. Following an assessment of the pilot, Committee may wish to consider increasing the annual budget, to £5,400 commencing in financial year 2020/2021.

- 2.5 The Youth Film Club pilot scheme concludes on 31 October 2029, having delivered two films per month between July and October. Learning has taken place regarding how the scheme is delivered, what it is called and how it is promoted. The scheme needs a longer test period to assess whether there is indeed enough interest in the scheme from young people to warrant its continuation. Unfortunately, on launching the scheme, a period of establishing how it was run proved detrimental to the promotion of the scheme. Rather than conclude it unsuccessful at this stage, officers recommend extending the pilot for a further 8 film showings at a cost of £2,400 utilising earmarked reserves, 970/9026.

3. EARMARKED RESERVES

- 3.1 The table below gives detail regarding Committee's current Earmarked reserves. The table provides Committee with a 'running total' showing what spend Committee has agreed. The Council's financial system only shows 'committed' spend so if a project is yet to be undertaken, the allocated budget will not show on the financial system. Thus, the table offers a more detailed picture of earmarked reserves and their intended allocation/use.

EMR (970)	Information / rationale	Remaining
(9018) Economic Development £25,978 + £249 = £26,227 Ref. 12/CE (f) remaining funds of £249 from 9027, (Town Centre Management), moved into 9018	To fund ongoing Town Centre focused activity, e.g. street furniture maintenance/updating, reprinting of shopping directories, Town maps, town banners, etc. Town centre attractions, e.g. Children's Trail repairs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Trail allocation of £2,600. Work will be delivered in 2019. Order to be raised. • Committed for 2019/20 Market promotion / social Media and market footfall counts. • Contribution to Best Bar None 2019/20 scheme 	Less £2,600 £4,000 £1,000 =£18,627 Remaining to allocate
(9020) TACTIC £17,001	To fund ongoing activity delivery, equipment refreshes, building upkeep and maintenance. Indication of spend/allocation in 2019/20: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £6,000 CHUMS service after 31/03/2019 until April 2020 (ref: Agenda item 11/03/19) • £2,100 install fire doors and safety updates, (Ref. 12/CE (c)) • £1,656 update 3x computers for young people's use, (Ref. 12/CE (d)) <p style="color: blue;">As per TACTIC Update report recommendation, the spend of £1123 (50% of total cost) to replace worn carpets within building.</p>	Less £6,000 £2,100 £1,656 £1,123 =£6,122 Remaining to allocate
(9049) Donations to TACTIC £1,238	Gifted from the public to be used to support the work of TACTIC – activities for young people - and Youth Forum raised funds for specific causes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £114 of raised by Youth Forum for Homeless cause too be given to charity. (Ref: 12/CE) <p style="color: blue;">As per TACTIC Update report recommendation, the allocation of £978 to allow for the development of the Satellite Basketball project.</p>	Less £114 £978 =£146 Remaining to allocate
(9022) Community	Un-used budget is rolled forward to facilitate maintenance, electricity supply and kit re-stock costs. To cover the remaining life span of the equipment; 7 years remaining.	Less

Access Defibrillators £3,042	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of new cabinet (Post Office). • Replacement batteries and new defibrillator. 	£705 £1,940 =£397 Remaining
(9026) Cultural & Economic Services £39,700	<p>To support the achievement of Council 5-Year Plan Objectives – e.g. pilot projects before long-term commitments are made or ruled out.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding partnership with Leighton Library Cinema to pilot a Youth Film Club between July and September as per Council objectives. (Ref. 164/CE). <i>(post script: the period was extended to end in October 2029)</i> <p>Recommendation 1.3, to allocate up to £7,000 from earmarked reserves (970/9026) to the VE Day celebrations 2020, for Rotary Leighton Linlade to secure historical entertainments and appropriately mark the historic day as per para 2.3.</p> <p>Recommendation 1.4, to allocate £900 from earmarked reserves (970/9026) to fund an increase in movie showings by three films, associated with the existing Movies for the More Mature scheme, as per para 2.4.</p> <p>Recommendation 1.5, to extend the pilot scheme for the Youth Film Club and allocate £2,400 (8x films), as per para 2.5.</p>	Less £2,400 £7,000 £900 £2,400 =£27,000 Remaining to allocate
(9027) Town Centre Management £804.12	<p>Accrued from previous years, work now picked up through general Economic Development earmarked reserves (9018)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town lamp post banners repairs/change over. <p>Ref. 12/CE (f) remaining funds of £249 moved into 9018, (Economic Development).</p>	Less £555 =£0
(9028) Signage – proposed allocation of £3,829	<p>Committee endorsed to continue improving town centre signage. Peacock Mews and Friday Street/ Ropa Court signage completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus spend on Ryland Mews and Bell Alley in 2019/20, Ref. 12/CE (b) 	Less £TBC

