

Date: 4 September 2017

Title: Best Bar None

Purpose of the Report: To consider budget allocation for the scheme

Contact Officer: Head of Cultural and Economic Services

Corporate Objective/s	LLTC Three Year Plan – To promote and develop a vibrant town through partnership working and initiatives including management of the street market, provision of town and community promotions, town centre enhancements, tourism and practical support for local businesses.	
Implications:		
Financial	√	As per paras. 3.2 and 3.4

1. RECOMMENDATION/S

Should members be minded, the proposals are:

- 1.1 To invest the sum of £500 to the scheme as the Town Council’s partnership contribution from earmarked reserves (Economic Development Budget Code 970/9026), as per para. 3.2.**
- 1.2 To reinvest the 2016/17 salary underspend of £2,500 into this year’s delivery of the award scheme, as per para. 3.4.**

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Best Bar None award scheme (BBN) scheme aims to promote responsible management and operation of alcohol-licensed premises and to improve standards in the night-time economy. It was piloted in Manchester in 2003 and found to improve standards in the night-time economy (NTE). Over 100 towns and cities in the UK have signed up to it.**
- 2.2 At the Policy & Finance Committee meeting on 22/02/2016, the Committee agreed to accept a one-off contribution of £12,000 from Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) to fund a one-year fixed-term post of Best Bar None (BBN) Administrator, and to initiate a Best Bar None (BBN) scheme in Leighton-Linslade, in addition to providing administrative support for existing schemes in Dunstable and Houghton Regis. (010/PF)**

2.3 A summary of the 2016/17 scheme was taken to PF on 05/01/2017 and it was resolved to continue to provide support for the scheme subject to securing sufficient costs (that includes the salary and on-costs of the Best Bar None Administrator who is presently hosted by this council), (Ref: 204/PF). The Town Council has again secured £12,000 from CBC to continue the scheme and at the time of writing this report, is undertaking recruitment of a BBN Coordinator to deliver the 2017/18 scheme.

3. BUDGET

3.1 In 2016/17, CBC contributed a further budget to the scheme to pay for a BBN assessor, award plaques and an awards event. CBC has stated that the same additional budget is no longer in place for the 2017/18 scheme. In acknowledgment of this, officers approached the two partnering participating towns of Houghton Regis and Dunstable for financial contributions to the scheme. Both have given a financial contribution; £200 from Houghton Regis and £500 from Dunstable, i.e. proportional budget contributions reflecting the amount of licenced premises able to sign up to the scheme.

3.2 On the premise of partnership working towards delivering the scheme, it is recommended that Committee contribute the sum of £500 to the scheme using EMR, Economic Development (budget code: 970/9026).

3.3 The above combined amounts total £1,200 which is needed towards covering the basic yet essential costs of assessor training and assessor fees.

3.4 Since the initial meetings with CBC and partners about delivering the scheme for 2017/18, the Town Council's final end of year figures have been confirmed identifying an under spend of £2,500 from the original 2016/17 CBC salary grant of £12,000.

3.5 It is proposed that, with CBC's agreement, this sum is utilised to address the remaining shortfall in funding required to cover remaining costs of the assessor, printing of award certificates, promotional materials and the awards presentation evening. Ongoing sponsorship opportunities will also continue to be explored.

3.6 Should Committee agree to endorse the recommendations, the combined project delivery cost (excluding salary budget) would be £3,700. In 2016/17, the final additional delivery budget was £3,420.

3.5 The alternative is to offer the under spend back to CBC.

4 CONCLUSIONS

4.1 For the 2016/17 award scheme to go ahead, an addition delivery budget is needed beyond that of the salary grant from CBC.

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