



Cultural and Economic Services

Date: 14 March 2022

Title: Budget Report

Purpose of the Report:

To monitor Committee's budget cost centre and earmarked reserves.

Contact Officer:

Vivien Cannon, Head of Cultural and Economic Services

Corporate Objective/s	LLTC Five Year Plan Vibrancy and Vitality of The Town Centre: To continue to support a vibrant town through partnership working and initiatives including management of the street markets, support for local businesses, town and community promotions and town centre enhancements.
Implications:	
Financial	Monitor and consider proposals relating to the 2021/22 budget spend including earmarked reserves.
Human Resources	
Operational/Service delivery	Budget spend to facilitate operational delivery
Procedural/Legal	Spend as per financial rules
Risk/Health and Safety	
Environmental Aims	

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

Should members be minded, the proposals are:

- 1.1 To note the report
- 1.2 To revoke the commitment to allocate £1,000 (970/9018) from earmarked reserves, to the Best Bar None Award scheme which was rolled over from 200/21 and held in abeyance awaiting confirmation of need which has not been received.

- 1.3 To revoke the commitment to allocate £2,400 (970/9026) from earmarked reserves, for the Youth Film Club pilot which was rolled over from 200/21 and held in abeyance awaiting partner review of the project.
- 1.4 To carry forward into unspent funds from Community Access Defibrillator (101/4554), into earmarked reserves 970/9022.

2 BUDGET INFORMATION

2.1 Current year budget report is attached at *Appendix A*.

3 EARMARKED RESERVES

3.1 The table attached at *Appendix B* 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 purchase order is yet to be raised, the allocated budget will not show on the Council's financial system.

3.2 As per the allocation of earmarked reserves shown, the projects listed work alongside the annual project work programme and the ongoing day to day running activities of the service.

3.3 **Best Bar None** - Committee had previously committed to provide the financial contribution of £1,000 for the delivery of the Best Bar None award scheme in 2020/21 (Ref.38/CE). The scheme was put on hold due to the pandemic and Committee agreed to retain the commitment pending confirmation from the delivery lead partner that it was still required when the scheme recommenced.

3.4 The delivery partner, Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC), recently announced that a revised scheme is due to restart this year. Officers asked CBC if the financial contribution was still requested, and officers have not received such confirmation. A deadline was provided with an assumption that if CBC did not confirm by that deadline, the Committee would be asked to review its original commitment. Officers anticipate that in future contributions, if requested, will be sought in the form of 'in kind', e.g., free use of a venue for the award evening

3.5 It is recommended that the financial commitment be revoked as per para. 1.2 above.

3.6 **Youth Film Club pilot** - Committee had previously committed to provide the financial contribution of £2,400 to extend the pilot project, Youth Film Club, (Ref.26/CE). Following a discussion with our project delivery partner, CBC, it was concluded not to progress with the project as the take-up was low and, in this post, pandemic time, the film market has a plethora of alternative routes to access films.

3.7 It is recommended that the financial commitment be revoked as per para. 1.3 above.

3.8 Unspent funds - Committee is asked to carry forward unspent funds from budget lines Buzzard Trails (101/4509) and Community Access Defibrillators (101/4554) to maintain sufficient budgets for large repairs and replacements as required.

4 CONCLUSION

4.1 Officers have undertaken discussion with CBC colleagues involved in partnership projects to ascertain whether funding contributions and projects remain needed or are viable. The conclusions are that funds do not need to be allocated and a pilot project is no longer viable.

End