

Resourcing Area East Priorities

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Purpose of the Report

To consider the approach to delivering key priorities for Area East and allocate funds accordingly.

Public Interest

Support for projects and initiatives in Area East for the forthcoming year.

Recommendation

That Members approve:

- (1) the de-allocation of £5,000 previously awarded to the Growing Space,
- (2) the ring fencing of £20,326 of the Members Discretionary budget towards the Area East priorities agreed at the Members workshop March 2018

Background

Members agreed the priorities set out in the draft Area Development Plan at the meeting of Area East in June 2017. The six monthly update was given in November where it was reported that the Transformation programme had directly impacted on the capacity of the Area Development Team.

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.

Project funds/commitments

Having progressed a number of successful projects during the previous (2016/17) financial year the table below shows the Members Discretionary Budget at March 2017 with remaining funds available to use in the current financial year (2017/18)

Project	Amount originally allocated in 2016/17	Unspent allocation	Comment as at March 2018
HoW LAG	£6,626	£6,626	
The Growing Space	£5,000	£5,000	No longer required
Lamp	£2,700	£0	Project completed
Work Space Initiatives	£6,020	£0	Workspace demand study completed
HoWRP	£2,000	£0	Ongoing contribution for Weymouth – Bristol Rail Partnership
	£22,346	£11,626	

As part of this process, in March 2017, Members agreed to allocate £5,000 from the Members Discretionary budget towards supporting The Growing Space to establish as a centre for vocational training. The project was dependent on the success of a bid to the National Lottery; unfortunately this was unsuccessful and the funding is now available for re-allocation. Members also agreed to retain funding for the Heart of Wessex Local Action Group, to provide additional technical and bid writing expertise to support the development of funding applications from within this area. To-date there has been very little take-up of this funding.

The contribution to the Heart of Wessex Rail Partnership is this area's contribution to, the long standing, multiply funded Weymouth – Bristol Rail partnership. The remaining projects were commissioned or nearing completion.

In April 2017 the budget received a top-up of £10,200 at the beginning of the year. There was therefore £21,826 available to allocate towards priorities of the Area East Committee.

Contributions of £1, 500 have been agreed to the three Local information Centres (LICs) operating in Area East which reduces the available balance to £20,326.

Officers have been waiting on the development of the Wincanton Town Centre study proposal to ensure that this work is fully funded before bringing recommendations forward. This work has now been identified as a corporate priority and funding for this is expected to be signed off ahead of the Area East Committee meeting – a verbal update will be given at the meeting.

Area East Priorities 2018/19

As Members have £20,326 to allocate a workshop has been programmed this month to agree Member's key priorities and the specific allocation of resources against individual activities. As we move forward through SSDC's Transformation process to the new ways of working, the approach, financing and staffing of area projects will be different. With the emergence of Area Plans and the inclusion of Area projects within the corporate plan from Spring 2019, 2018/19 will be a transitional year.

Financial Implications

If members agree recommendation 1 to de-allocate £5,000 of funding from The Growing Space , a sum of £20,326 remains unallocated in the Members' Discretionary Budget, which is available to be allocated to delivering Members key priorities in 2018/19. The funding distributions for individual projects to be agreed at the March 2018 Members' workshop

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: None
