

RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Resources Committee held at 6.30pm on Tuesday, 06 February 2018 in the Town Hall, Banbury.

Present: Councillor Mallon (Chairman)
Councillors: Banfield, Clarke, Colegrave, Harrison, Hussain, Kilsby, and Wren.

Officers: Mark Recchia (Town Clerk)
Mark Hassall (Deputy Town Clerk/RFO)
Audrey O'Mahony (Planning & Administration Officer)

R.48.17 Apologies for absence

Councillor Cherry, Councillor Richards, and Councillor Fatemian.

R.49.17 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Kilsby declared a pecuniary interest in the application from The Royal Voluntary Service, as an employee of the service, and left the meeting during the discussion and voting thereon. Councillor Clarke declared a personal interest in the application from The Mill Arts Centre as he had been invited to join the fundraising committee of the Centre and left the meeting during the discussion and voting thereon. Councillor Mallon declared an interest in the application from Banbury Museum as a member of the board of trustees and left the meeting during the discussion and voting thereon, at which point the vice-chairman, Councillor Colegrave, took the chair during the discussion for this application.

R.50.17 Minutes of the last Meeting

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 09 January 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

R.51.17 Budget Monitoring Report – Income & Expenditure

The Committee considered a report prepared by the Deputy Town Clerk/RFO comparing year-to-date income and expenditure with the projected annual budget to 22 January.

The Deputy Town Clerk/RFO responded to a range of detailed questions from Members relating to various budget codes. He drew attention in particular to the fact that overall the Committees were within forecast. Underspends versus the phased budget were £671k across all services. Excluding forecast future expenditure of £338K, this was made up of General Services underspends of £164k and Resources underspends of (£181k). This was mainly caused by expected underspends on timing of grounds maintenance charges and timing of capital works.

IT WAS RESOLVED to receive and note the Income and Expenditure report.

R.52.17 Minutes of the Grants & Budget Sub Committee

The Committee was asked to receive the Minutes of the Sub Committee meeting and forward the recommendations therein to the Council meeting for final approval.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Grants & Budget Sub Committee Meeting held on 29 January 2017 be received and noted.

IT WAS RECOMMENDED to Council that (as outlined in **G&B.9/17**):

- (1) the Council confirm the Annual Grants and the provision for Small Grants as outlined in **Appendix 1**, pending the financial vetting, as necessary, by the Deputy Town Clerk and RFO;
- (2) the grant application (Annex 3/1) from Banbury Community Church Trust (The Hill) (formerly Willy Freund Centre) be approved and an award of £2,500 be made as transitional funding;
- (3) the grant application (Annex 3/2) from the Banbury Folk Association be approved in part and an award of £400 be made for promotion and re-branding;
- (4) the grant application (Annex 3/3) from the Home-Start Banbury & Chipping Norton be refused as the application is for core running costs (including costs that are payroll related);
- (5) the grant application (Annex 3/4) from the Banbury Young Homeless Project be approved in part and an award of £1,500 be made for the purchase of a Smart Board, upon a receipt being submitted to the Town Council for the purchase;
- (6) the grant application (Annex 3/5) from The Mill Arts Centre be refused as the under-writing/subsidy of ticket sales was indirectly supporting core funding;
- (7) the grant application (Annex 3/6) from the Oxfordshire Volunteer Befriending Service be approved in part and an award of £270 be made for the provision of a new printer and advertising;
- (8) the grant application (Annex 3/7) from Revitalise Respite Holidays be refused as the application was in essence for core funding;
- (9) the grant application (Annex 3/8) from Banbury Museum be approved in part and an award of £5,000 be made towards the increase in size of the Special Exhibitions Gallery;
- (10) the grant application (Annex 3/9) from Lets Play Project be refused as the Project was moving to Twyford and the commensurate benefit to the Town residents was no longer evident;
- (11) the grant application (Annex 3/10) from Standing in the Gap be approved and an award of £2,026 be made;
- (12) the grant application (Annex 3/11) from Enrych Oxfordshire be refused as the application is to support core funding;
- (13) the grant application (Annex 3/12) from St Francis Church Tots and Carers be approved and an award of £5,000 be made;
- (14) the grant application (Annex 3/13) from Easington Sports Football Club be approved and an award of £2,000 be made;
- (15) the grant application (Annex 3/14) from the Royal Voluntary Service be refused as the Committee believe that alternative grant provision could potentially be sourced within the Town and the need could also be met by combining with other charities and local organisations to make better use of under-utilised vehicles;

- (16) the grant application (Annex 3/15) from the Banburyshire Citizen Project be refused as the intended use was for core funding;
- (17) the grant application (Annex 3/16) from Sound Resource be refused as the application was for core funding and running costs;
- (18) the grant application (Annex 3/17) from the Banbury Polish Association be refused as the application was for core funding;
- (19) the grant application (Annex 3/18) from St John's Catholic Church be refused as the application was retrospective; and
- (20) the remaining budget provision be made available through the Small Contributions Fund for 2018/2019.

R.53.17 Health and Safety Policy Statement

The Committee considered the overarching Environmental, Health and Safety Policy Statement, which was to be reviewed annually.

IT WAS RECOMMENDED that the Environmental Health & Safety Policy Statement (attached as **Appendix 2**) be approved and the Town Clerk be authorised to sign the statement.

R.54.17 Consultation on the Future of Banbury Magistrates' Court

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk outlining the proposed closure of Banbury Magistrates' Court.

The consultation set out proposals on the future of Banbury Magistrates' Court, including the closure of the building and the work being relocated to other existing courts. It was stated that the closure would contribute to the consolidation of the Thames Valley court estate and, through disposal, provide funding for the ongoing process of reforming court and tribunal services in England and Wales.

Members expressed their objections to the proposals and wished to express in the strongest terms that a town, of the size and standing of Banbury, ought to have its own Magistrates' Court to deal with justice efficiently.

IT WAS RESOLVED to raise objections to the closure of Banbury Courthouse and to ask the Town Clerk to respond accordingly, in consultation with the Group Leaders.