

REPORT TITLE: EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM HELD 25 JANUARY 2017

CABINET

8 FEBRUARY 2017

PORTFOLIO HOLDERS: Councillor Stephen Godfrey (Portfolio Holder for Finance) and Councillor Steve Miller (Portfolio Holder for Estates)

REPORT OF HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

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WARD(S): ALL

PURPOSE

This report set out an extract of the minutes of the Winchester Town Forum held 25 January 2017 which has been referred to Cabinet for its consideration.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Cabinet consider and determine the matters set out in the minute extract below.

DRAFT MINUTE EXTRACT FROM WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM
HELD ON 25 JANUARY 2017

1. **PROPOSED GRANT ALLOCATIONS FOR 2017/18**
(Report CAB2888 refers)

The Forum gave consideration to the proposed grant allocations report for 2017/18. It was noted that the Council had provided funds to support the work of voluntary and community organisations in the Winchester District, recognising the wide and valued range of services provided across the outcomes of the Winchester District. The proposed total budget for grant programmes in 2017/18 was £754,330 which was a slight increase on the previous year 2016/17 with the bulk of the money given in Core Funding, responsible for making contributions towards the overheads of organisations providing important services in the Winchester District.

Councillor Hiscock declared a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to the Trinity Centre as the Director of an associated organisation. He left the room during the consideration of this item, taking no part in the discussion or vote thereon.

Councillor Green declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in relation to The Carroll Centre, in his role as the Council's nominated representative. He left the room during the consideration of this item, taking no part in the discussion or vote thereon.

Councillor Elks declared a personal and prejudicial interest as trustee of The Carroll Centre. She left the room during the consideration of this item, taking no part in the discussion or vote thereon.

Councillor Ashton declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of the Winchester Theatre Trust due to his wife's role as Chairman of the Trust. He left the room during the consideration of this item, taking no part in the discussion or vote thereon.

Councillor Mather declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest as an advisory committee member of the Trinity Centre and in relation to several other organisations listed where periodic grants had been given during 2016/17 in her role as a County Councillor. She spoke and voted thereon.

Councillor Learney declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest as Member of WinACC and spoke and voted thereon.

Councillor Tod declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in relation to the Trinity Centre (as he was a regular donor), Winchester Churches Nightshelter (as

a volunteer), Hyde 900 (as a member) and in relation to several other organisations listed where periodic grants had been given during 2016/17 in his role as a County Councillor. He spoke and voted thereon.

Councillor Weir declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest as trustee of WinACC and spoke and voted thereon.

The Assistant Director (Economy and Communities) outlined the proposed grant funding allocations for 2017/18, as set out in Appendix 1 of the Report and thanked Members of the Winchester Town Forum (Town Account Grants) Informal Group for their time in thoroughly considering the grant applications submitted.

The Assistant Director (Economy and Communities) drew Members' attention to a significant change for 2017/18 in relation to the proposed introduction of Integr8 Community as a core funded organisation. Integr8 had proposed to bring commercial income to the King Alfred Youth and Activity Centre (KAYAC), whilst retaining the community orientation through lettings to charities, youth activities and classes. As a result, a three year phased funding arrangement was proposed, as set out in paragraphs 2.2 and 8.6 of the Report.

The Committee referred to the allocations made under the Town Forum Small Grants during 2016/17, which had been agreed under delegated powers by the Assistant Director (Economy and Communities), in consultation with the Winchester Town Forum (Town Account Grants) Informal Group, as set out in Appendix 2 of the Report.

In conclusion, the Committee thanked the Winchester Town Forum (Town Account Grants) Informal Group, particularly its Chairman, Councillor Scott and Melissa Fletcher, Funding and Development Officer, for their hard work and dedication in the grant allocation process.

RESOLVED:

That it be recommended to Cabinet:

- 1. That, as part of the approval of the total City Council Grants, the proposed grant allocations totalling £80,000 and shown in Appendix 1 of the Report be made to organisations in the Town area (funded by a release from the Winchester Town precept), and subject to the Council's approval of the Budget and Council Tax for 2017/18, be endorsed;**
- 2. That the allocations made for the Town Forum Small Grants Programme for 2016/17 under the delegated authority of**

the Assistant Director (Economy and Communities) as shown in Appendix 2 of the Report, be noted; and

3. That the Membership of Winchester Town Forum (Town Account Grants) Informal Group be amended for 2017/18 (preferably to five members), in order to facilitate efficient decision-making.

2. WINCHESTER TOWN ACCOUNT BUDGET 2017/18
(Report WTF250 refers)

The Forum gave consideration to the Winchester Town Account Budget for 2017/18 which summarised the current financial projections for the Town Account for the period 2016/17 to 2021/22, together with financial sensitivities.

Members' attention was drawn to the updated financial projections for the financial strategy period, together with the key assumptions and sensitivity analysis, as set out in Appendix 1 of the Report, which formed the final part of the budget consultation process and gave consideration to the budget options for the Play Area Refurbishment Plan, the Cycle Café, St Maurice's Covert and the Community Infrastructure Levy Improvement Fund.

Following consideration of Appendix 2, outlining the forecast based on the current Precept and Appendix 3, which set out the forecast based on an increase in Precept of 3%, for 2017/18, Members referred to the effect of increasing the town area precept for 2017/18, the work carried out by the Winchester Town (Account Informal) Group and the indicative precept requirements of funding the play area refurbishment to 2024/25.

Members made reference to the capital expenditure plans and the capital programme which highlighted the budgets currently funded by the town earmarked reserve, particularly in relation to the Chesil Theatre Grant where the budget had been set aside but there had been no expenditure. In response, the Chairman agreed to approach the Chesil Theatre to seek an update on their current position.

Similarly, the Committee noted that £11,000 had been set aside within the budget for the provision of Christmas Lights in the Town Centre. However, it was reported that following a recent meeting with the Winchester Business Improvement District (BID), a letter regarding funding for Christmas Lights was in the process of being submitted by the BID, therefore it was considered that funding should remain in the budget, pending receipt of correspondence, to continue this joint project between BID and the Council.

During debate, the Committee noted that since the draft budget had been published there had been widespread support for the Christmas Lights and for

the St Maurice's Covert Enhancement Scheme. Whilst it was recognised that not all aspects of the scheme for St Maurice's Covert were affordable at this time, Members were keen to see this important scheme progress and hoped to encourage the key stakeholders to 'buy into' the scheme moving forward.

To contribute to the success of the scheme an amendment to the draft budget was proposed to allocate an increase to the one off budget for St Maurice's Covert of £10,000, increasing this overall from £50,000 to £60,000. The Committee also requested the same one off increase in matched funding be supported from Cabinet.

The Committee noted that Parish Council precepts for Council Tax had continued to increase regularly on an annual basis, whereas the Town had previously refrained from increasing its precept for Council Tax over many years but recognised that this was not sustainable if it wished to continue to deliver vital services to its residents.

At the conclusion of the debate, it was agreed to recommend to Cabinet that the Town area precept for Council Tax for 2017/18 be increased by 3%.

RESOLVED:

That it be recommended to Cabinet:

- 1. That the draft budget for 2017/18 be amended to increase the one off budget for St Maurice's Covert from £50,000 to £60,000 and, subject to this amendment, the indicative projections for the strategy period be noted;**
- 2. That an increase in Council Tax for the Town area precept of 3% to £65.21 in 2017/18 (an increase of £1.90 per Band D equivalent) be agreed;**
- 3. That the amended budget for the Winchester Town Forum area, as set out in Appendix 1 of Report WTF250 be approved; and**
- 4. That consideration be given to general fund matched funding increase for the works at St Maurice's Covert from £50,000 to £60,000, as set out above.**