

# ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## REPORT TO AND DECISION OF THE ECONOMY COMMITTEE ON 12 OCTOBER 2021

### REPORT

**SUBJECT: ECONOMIC RECOVERY FUND**

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Denise Vine/Miriam Nicholls

**DATE:** August 2021

**EXTN:** 01903 737846

**AREA:** Economy Group

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** In July this year the Leaders of the eight West Sussex Councils agreed that funding should be allocated from the Economic Recovery Fund, held by West Sussex County Council, to each of the seven District and Borough Councils in West Sussex. The report asks this Committee to accept the funding and delegate the future use of it, for High Street recovery initiatives which have yet to be considered and costed, to the Chair of the Economy Committee.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Committee agree:

- i. to accept the £70,000 from the Economic Recovery Fund
- ii. that the funds be used for economic recovery projects in the town centres of Bognor Regis, Littlehampton and Arundel, on projects yet to be decided.
- iii. that £10,000 be allocated, from the Economic Recovery Fund, to Arundel Town Council for the purchase of Market Stalls.
- iv. to prevent delay in taking forward projects, to delegate the agreement of those projects where the contribution is under £10,000 to the Chair of the Economy Committee.

### 1. BACKGROUND:

1.1. Across the county there is evidence of change in our high streets as retail features less – some of the biggest high street brands now only have an online presence and even ‘delivery kitchen’ developments are emerging on industrial estates which is impacting smaller food outlets in the town centres.

1.2. Insight into changes in our places (urban, coastal, rural) is needed, along with leadership and tactical ‘moves’ to reposition high streets for different business and enterprise uses, alongside community, cultural, and social purposes.

1.3. The Economic Recovery Fund is held by West Sussex County Council and an allocation has been made within that for supporting the repositioning of High Streets and Market Towns. Arun District Council has received £70,000 to be used for these purposes.

1.4. Officers are working with partners to identify suitable initiatives the funding could support.

1.5. Projects such as the Pop-Up Retail initiative, mentioned elsewhere on this agenda, are being worked on with our partners and would align with the priorities for this funding.

1.6. Partners also have projects that would be suitable. One such project is for the purchase of Market Stalls to enable the continuation and growth of Arundel Farmers Market. A £10,000 contribution is requested for this.

**2. PROPOSAL(S):**

2.1. It is proposed that the Economy Committee agree to allocate £10,000 to Arundel Town Council for the purchase of Market Stalls which will allow the highly successful Arundel Farmers Market to continue and grow. Grant funding has also been awarded via the Greener Business Grant fund and Arundel Town Council has committed to finding the remaining costs.

2.2 It is proposed that Officers work with our Partners in Arundel, Bognor Regis and Littlehampton to consider further projects that can be developed within a short timescale.

2.3. In order to prevent further delay once such projects are developed, it is proposed that the Chair of the Economy Committee is consulted to agree funding projects where the contribution required is less than £10,000. The Constitution states that funding in excess of £10,000 requires Committee approval.

**3. OPTIONS:**

3.1 To accept the funding and for it to be used on projects that align with the stated priorities.

3.2 To not accept the funding and return it to West Sussex County Council.

**4. CONSULTATION:**

Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO
Relevant Town/Parish Council (for previous decisions)		X
Relevant District Ward Councillors (for previous decisions)		X
Other groups/persons (please specify) Some Ward Cllrs have changed since decisions were made		X

5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)	YES	NO
Financial		x
Legal		x
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		x
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		x
Sustainability		x
Asset Management/Property/Land		x
Technology		x
Other (please explain)		x
<b>6. IMPLICATIONS:</b>		

**7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:**

To allow funding from the Economic Recovery Fund, allocated to this Council, to be used on economic interventions in the three main towns within Arun. Authority be delegated to the Chair of the Economy Committee to agree funding up to £10,000 in order that these can be Implemented without further delay.

**8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:** None