

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO AND DECISION OF POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE ON 9 DECEMBER 2021

SUBJECT: Levelling Up Fund Delivery Support

REPORT AUTHOR: Carolin Martlew, Interim Group Head of Corporate Support and Section 151 Officer
DATE: November 2021
EXTN: 01903 737668
AREA: Corporate Support

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report recommends the appointment of temporary staff resource to enable the delivery of the projects to be funded from the £19 million awarded to the Council from the Government's Levelling Up Fund. It also outlines how these will be funded.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Committee approves that:

- (i) the virement of up to £55,000 from corporate underspend in 2021/22 be used to fund temporary staff to enable the delivery of the successful Levelling Up fund bid in 2021/22; and
- (ii) Budgetary provision is made from 2022/23 for these posts until completion of the projects.

1. BACKGROUND:

The Council has been advised that it has been awarded £19.442 million from the Government's Levelling Up fund to deliver improvements in Littlehampton and Bognor Regis.

The projects included in the bid are a major undertaking and the Council does not have the expertise or capacity in house to manage the delivery of these from current resources. It is vital that investment of this level is managed and monitored to deliver the projects outlined in the bid within the budget and specified timeline.

2. PROPOSAL(S):

To deliver the projects, following consideration it is proposed to recruit the following specialist staff on a temporary basis. It is anticipated that the cost for 2021/22 of the enhanced project team will be up to £55k, which can be met by virement from internal resources.

It is also proposed that the full year cost (£220k for 2022/23) be included in future year budgets until the project has been completed. The additional project team resource is required immediately and is comprised of: 1.4 (fte) Project Officers; 2 Project Support Officers; and 0.34 (fte) Project Manager. It should be noted that additional resources may be required as the project progresses, and that the Committee will be updated as soon as further information becomes available.

3. OPTIONS:

The options available to Members are:

- Approve the financial resources required for additional staffing for the delivery of the Levelling Up fund project (preferred option);
- Reject the additional financial resources to deliver the Levelling Up fund project. This option carries the significant risk that the Council will have insufficient resources to deliver a project of this magnitude successfully.

4. CONSULTATION:

Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO
Relevant Town/Parish Council		✓
Relevant District Ward Councillors		✓
Other groups/persons (please specify)		✓
5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)	YES	NO
Financial	✓	
Legal		✓
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		✓
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		✓
Sustainability		✓
Asset Management/Property/Land		✓
Technology		✓
Other (please explain)		✓

6. IMPLICATIONS:

Financial

The financial implications are as contained in the report (£55k 2021/22 and £220k from 2022/23 until the completion of the project). Failure to approve the requested funding carries the significant financial risk of the LUF project not being delivered. Failure of the LUF project also carries significant reputational risk to the Council

7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:

The funding is required to allow the Council to effectively deliver the projects outlined in the bid to the government Levelling Up Fund.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None.