

## Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	<b>Cabinet</b>	
MEETING DATE:	<b>10<sup>th</sup> April 2013</b>	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		<b>E 2550</b>
TITLE:	<b>Radstock Capital Funding</b>	
WARD:	All	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b> Appendix 1: Press Release, "£500,000 for Radstock – Have your say", 15 <sup>th</sup> October 2012		

### 1 THE ISSUE

1.1 The Radstock Capital Funding project has a capital budget allowance of £500,000. £160,000 of this fund has full approval to be spent on Victoria Hall, leaving £340,000 to be allocated between other uses. Community consultation has now been undertaken around the allocation of these funds and suggestions received and reviewed. This report presents the suggested allocations between Economic Development, Community facilities and Streets, Highways and Public Realm and seeks Cabinet approval for the allocations.

### 2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet are recommended to approve the allocation of the remaining £340,000 of capital funds as follows:

#### 2.1 Economic Development

1. £135,000 to support the work of the Radstock and Westfield Economic Development Forum.
2. £15,000 towards the provision of Heritage signage in Radstock.

#### 2.2 Community Facilities

1. £50,000 for investment into additional community facilities. The recipients of this investment are to be identified through a competitive bidding process.

### 2.3 Streets, Highways and Public realm

1. £140,000 for investment into streets, highways and public realm initiatives to enable projects identified by Highways/Traffic Management and facilitate initiatives suggested through the community consultation process.
- 2.4 The Radstock & Westfield Economic Development Forum oversees and manages the delivery of an economic development action plan of interventions, aimed at increasing economic and social/ community growth in Radstock and Westfield. The forum is made up of local and B&NES Councillors, business representatives, Radstock Town Team, Writhlington School and Norton Radstock College
- 2.5 In order to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of the funds, Officers recommend that a clear set of criteria, terms & conditions and an appropriate scoring matrix are developed with the Radstock and Westfield Economic Development Forum, and a competitive, open bidding process is administered by officers to distribute the Economic Development allocation over the next year.
- 2.6 Officers also recommend that the £50,000 towards additional community facilities should also be awarded through a competitive bidding process. A clear set of criteria, terms & conditions and an appropriate scoring matrix will also need to be developed to support this process.

## 3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The capital fund of £500,000 was allocated during the Council Budget and Council Tax meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2012. No additional funding is required. (Note: of this £500,000, £160,000 was given full approval and allocated against 'Victoria Hall' whilst £340,000 was given provisional approval against the 'Radstock Regeneration')
- 3.2 Officer resources in managing and undertaking the work will be covered through existing revenue allocations made through the Council's annual service and resource planning process.
- 3.3 Funding will be provided for Capital purposes only and Officers will ensure that all funding accords with the Local Government Capital Regulations. All grants must be state aid compliant or de-minimus.
- 3.4 No Revenue budget provisions exist for this project and therefore the Council will not accept any revenue liabilities arising from any grant funded or supported project.

## 4 CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 The Radstock Capital Funding project meets all three of the Council's objectives. The community consultation has put people and communities first by allowing involvement within the decision making process. This has allowed people to become actively engaged in identifying projects that will make specific, measurable improvements to their surrounding environment and will help to **create a neighbourhood where they are proud to live**. It will also **build a stronger**

**community** by supporting the work of Radstock and Westfield Economic Development Forum and by improving the physical environment, encouraging further investment and spend within Radstock. The provision of additional community facilities will further help **promote independence and positive lives for everyone**.

## 5 THE REPORT

### Background:

- 5.1 At the Council Budget and Council Tax meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2012 a capital fund of £500,000 was allocated for a 'Radstock Regeneration Scheme'. £160,000 was given full approval for expenditure on Victoria Hall whilst £340,000 was provisionally allocated to other projects. The proposed aim of the fund was to 'improve the street scene, encourage property regeneration, and attract private sector investment' and the report stated that objectives were to be defined through consultation with the community and local members.
- 5.2 On 15<sup>th</sup> October 2012 a press release was issued (Appendix 1) which detailed the suggested allocation of funding and which sought comments from the local community on the proposed allocation. The local community was invited to put forward opinions and ideas on how the money could be allocated and were given four weeks in which to respond.
- 5.3 The proposed allocation of funds outlined the following:
1. A contribution towards 'Economic Development', consisting of:
    - a) £100,000 to support the work of the Radstock and Westfield Economic Development Forum.
  2. A contribution towards 'Community Facilities', consisting of;
    - a) £160,000 towards the redesign and updating of Victoria Hall (as approved)
    - b) £50,000 to update the children's play park in Writhlington and promote more opportunities for it to be used by local people.
  3. A contribution towards 'Streets, Highways and Public Realm', consisting of;
    - a) £25,000 to widen Morley Terrace in Tynning village to provide the opportunity for better parking and improve accesses to about 60 homes.
    - b) £150,000 to improve safety for people on foot and cyclists on Frome Road by widening the pavement and introducing one additional crossing.
    - c) £10,000 to roll out a 20mph speed limit in Haydon - specifically on Haydon Hill and Kilmersdon Road to St. Nicholas School.
    - d) £5,000 to provide a pavement on the blind bend between upper and lower Clandown.

5.4 In total there were 33 email responses during the consultation period, with 13 comments on the original proposals and a further 20 responses containing additional suggestions. The population of Radstock ward is 5,276 (2001 census).

5.5 Although the response to the consultation was limited, the general allocation of funding to the main headings of 'Economic Development', 'Street, Highways and Public Realm' was supported.

#### Current situation:

5.6 Taking on board the responses to the consultation, approval is now sought to proceed with the funding allocations as set out in section 2 of this report. This will see the remaining £340,000 of the fund allocated as follows:

- Economic Development - £150,000. This will comprise of £135,000 towards the Radstock and Westfield Economic Development Forum and £15,000 towards heritage signage for Radstock.
- Streets, Highways and Public Realm - £140,000. Allocations will be made by the Highways and Traffic Management teams to enable identified projects and to implement other initiatives as suggested through the consultation process.
- Community Facilities - £50,000 split between other community facilities. (£160,000 having already been allocated to Victoria Hall.)

#### Further Recommendations:

5.7 Officers recommend that a clear set of criteria is developed with Radstock and Westfield Economic Development Forum, and a competitive, open bidding process is administered by officers to distribute the Economic Development allocation over the next year.

5.8 Officers also recommend that the £50,000 towards additional community facilities should also be awarded through a competitive bidding process. A clear set of criteria will need to be developed to support this process.

## **6 RISK MANAGEMENT**

6.1 The report author and Lead Cabinet member have fully reviewed the risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

6.2 The Regeneration, Skills and Employment division maintains a risk register, updated and reported regularly to Corporate standards, which captures and seeks to mitigate all project and operational risks.

## **7 EQUALITIES**

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has not been undertaken at this stage, but as project proposals are developed the necessary EqIA's will be made. However, at this stage it is clear that the suggested allocation of funding will enable projects

which will contribute towards improving the economy of the area and produce social benefits for the local community.

## **8 RATIONALE**

8.1 The recommendations set out for approval were determined through community consultation and discussion with local members. The recommendations reflect the Council's corporate objectives and will make a positive contribution to the economic and social health of Radstock.

## **9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

9.1 An alternative allocation of funding was originally suggested at the time of agreeing the Capital Fund. However, since the community consultation exercise, the allocations have altered in order to address the suggestions of the community. Given the Council's aim of encouraging community involvement, this revised allocation of spending is deemed to be preferable.

## **10 CONSULTATION**

10.1 The following people were consulted: *Cabinet members; B&NES Staff; Other B&NES Services; Service Users; Local Residents; Community Interest Groups; Stakeholders/Partners; Other Public Sector Bodies; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer*

10.2 The community consultation was initiated by a press release in October 2012 (Appendix 1). This press release was issued with a proposed allocation of funding, invited local people to have their say about the proposals and invited local people to put forwards any other ideas on how the money could be allocated. The community had four weeks in which to respond. 33 email responses were received during the consultation period.

## **11 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION**

11.1 Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Sustainability; Young People; Corporate; Other Legal Considerations

## **12 ADVICE SOUGHT**

12.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

<b>Contact person</b>	John Wilkinson, 01225 396593
<b>Sponsoring Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Cherry Beath
<b>Background papers</b>	Council Budget and Council Tax meeting minutes, February 2012  '£500,000 for Radstock - have your say' consultation response summary
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	