

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL
24 March 2022
CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation to Council made at the Cabinet meeting held on 24 March

Grant income from Government received late in the 2021/22 financial year and extension of budget for the Drill Hall into June 2022

Three grants were received very late in the 2021/22 financial year that were unexpected and do not have budget lines for the income or expenditure in 2021/22. All three grants can be carried forward into 2022/23 if unspent at 31 March 2022.

The grants are to be spent for cyber-security, biodiversity net gain and to establish a business case to support future funding bids to create a collaborative co-working space in Horsham Town.

The Royal British Legion has recently made us aware that due to internal delays with their central surveyors and valuations teams, it is increasingly unlikely to be able to agree legal terms over the Drill Hall before the agreed handover date of 1 April 2022. This report requests that a budget for operating the Drill Hall for three months is created in 2022/23. This will enable the discussions and any legal work to continue to the end of April, and the Drill Hall to remain open during this time.

The report also includes a recommendation to Council to approve a £20,000 budget so that the Monitoring Officer can instruct Hoey Ainscough Associates Ltd to undertake a review of Steyning Parish Council and provide support for that Parish Council.

Cabinet are to consider the report of the Cabinet Member for Finance & Parking immediately before this Extraordinary Council Meeting. Cabinet are recommended to:

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

- i) To approve the creation of a revenue budget in 2021/22 of £100,000 which will be spent on cyber security.
- ii) To approve the creation of a £10,047 revenue budget in 2021/22 in strategic planning to be spent on the introduction of biodiversity net gain.
- iii) To approve the creation of a £35,000 revenue budget in 2021/22 in strategic planning to be spent on establishing a business case to support future funding bids.
- iv) To approve the creation of a revenue budget in Leisure services for the Drill Hall of £9,000 income and £18,600 expenditure, which is a net cost of £9,600 in the 2022/23 budget.
- v) To approve the budget sum of £20,000 in 2022/23 to pay for a review of Steyning Parish Council to be conducted by Hoey Ainscough Associates Ltd.

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REASON

- i) The funding will be used on the delivery of our Cyber Treatment Plan and actions to reduce risk created by the use of legacy operating systems.
- ii) The funding will be used in our preparations for the introduction of a mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain requirement, which is due to come into force in 2023.
- iii) The funding will be used to establish a business case to support future funding bids to create a collaborative co-working space in Horsham Town.
- iv) The budget will enable the Council to continue to operate the Drill Hall in April 2022 whilst discussions with the Royal British Legion are finalised.
- v) The Budget will allow for alternative action to be taken for dealing with the ever increasing and continuing code of conduct complaints that have been received from Steyning Parish Council.