

FACILITIES COMMITTEE – 10th January 2017 – Agenda Item 8

8. To receive and approve the draft 2017/2018 Facilities budget.

8.1 Background – following consideration at the last meeting of the Committee, the points raised have been taken into account and other developments since the 8th November reflected in the draft 2017/2018 budget setting. The once in a generation one off nature of the Public Hall Refurbishment Project does impact upon the budget setting report. It is anticipated that the construction costs will be met by a combination of external grant, the roll forward of nominated reserves and the use of some of the dilapidations reserves set aside by the Council for the purposes of investment in its property. There will be a modest £25,000 in 2017/2018 budget drawn from the precept to help towards the Public Hall Project.

Another impact on the setting of the revenue budget would be the loss of income on the Public Hall whilst it is closed for the refurbishment. This is difficult to estimate as the duration of the contract is not yet known. In addition, booking rates vary according to the season with the summer quiet but other parts of the year being busy. Whilst a contract in the summer months would be the optimum this cannot be guaranteed. A figure needs to be estimated and hence, of the usual annual income of £25,000, it is estimated, £5,000 might be lost.

8.2 External Grant Support – from investigations to date it would appear, that the Public Hall Refurbishment Project proposed by the Council would attract grant support from external sources with an anticipated grant receipt to cover 50% of the total project cost.

8.3 Public Hall Refurbishment Project – The estimated gross project cost is £155,000. In the draft budgets attached the Town Council element would be covered in the following way from the current approved and draft budget:

Budget Heading	Amount
Nominated Reserve Public Hall 2015/2016	£12,700
Public Hall (Projects Budget) 2016/2017 £25,000 – minus preliminary costs £10,000	£15,000
Facilities Committee – 2017/2018 draft budget precept	£25,000
Dilapidations Main Buildings Reserve Pre 2015	£24,800
Total	£77,500
Amount required – 50% of £155,000 = £77,500	£77,500

8.4 Facilities Committee – Financial Plan 2017/2018 – 2021/2022 (see attached EXCEL spreadsheet)

Councillors are asked to pay particular attention to the next financial year, that is, 2017/2018 which year is in bold on the attached EXCEL spreadsheet. Future years are broadly indicative and include certain items discussed at the last Committee meeting such as, Dean Street Toilets and Amenity Scheme and certain events not directly within the control of the Council but of which we need to take account such as the transfer of the amenity land at Eastern Avenue and from Maudlin Farm.

8.5 Items of Note and Town Clerks Comments:

n 1 - 2017/2018 Public Hall Income - £5,000 – this has been reduced to take account of the disruption in the income stream.

n 2 – 2017/2018 Salaries £20,981 – change as a result of the Council approval of the Salaries and Grading Report 21st June 2016. This created the Administration Assistant part time post (which was balanced by a transfer of a similarly graded post from the Finance Committee to the Facilities Committee establishment. Hence, this (£12,470) is an internal Council transfer and not a net increase to the Council.) The Town Council also approved the Caretaker and Handyman Team review at its 5th September 2016 meeting. This did combine the recommended 20 hours increase in the caretaking/handyman capacity of the Council by the appointment of dual capability caretaker/handyman staff. This replaced the previous system of separate caretaker and handyman posts which had limited the flexibility of the staff in meeting the needs of the Council and the public.

next financial year as a nominated reserve for the Public Hall total at n 5.

8.6 Project Codes (used in EXCEL spreadsheet)

Public Hall – pb

Foresters Hall – fh

Guildhall – gh

Westbourne Gardens – wg

Dean Street Toilets / Amenity Project – ds

Eastern Avenue – ea

Maudlin Farm – mf

RECOMMENDATION: That the Committee RECOMMENDS to Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Council that the attached Financial Plan is adopted and relevant nominated reserves be authorised.