

Title: Transforming Leamington - Community Projects Reserve
 Lead Officers: Martin O'Neill/Mark Brightburn
 Portfolio Holder: Councillor Liam Bartlett
 Wards of the District directly affected: Brunswick, Clarendon, Willes

Approvals required	Date	Name
Portfolio Holder	14/2/2023	Liam Bartlett
Finance	14/2/2023	Andrew Rollins
Legal Services	14/2/2023	Ross Chambers
Chief Executive	14/2/2023	Chris Elliott
Head of Service(s)	14/2/2023	Philip Clarke
Section 151 Officer	14/2/2023	Andrew Rollins
Monitoring Officer	14/2/2023	Andrew Jones
Leadership Co-ordination Group	7/2/2023	Chris Elliott
Final decision by this Committee or rec to another Cttee / Council?	Yes	
Contrary to Policy / Budget framework?	No	
Does this report contain exempt info/Confidential? If so, which paragraph(s)?	No	
Does this report relate to a key decision (referred to in the Cabinet Forward Plan)?	No	
Accessibility Checked?	Yes	

Summary

The report sets out a request to allocate an amount from the Community Projects Reserve for use by the Leamington Transformation Board to support its programme of work in Transforming Leamington.

Recommendation(s)

- (1) That Cabinet approves the allocation of £50,000 from the Community Projects Reserve 2023/24 to the Transforming Leamington programme.
 - (2) That authority to use the allocation at their discretion is delegated to the Head of Place, Arts and Economy, in consultation with the Independent Chair of the Leamington Transformation Board.
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1 Reasons for the Recommendations

- 1.1 The Leamington Transformation Board was established in January 2022 and consists of Members from all three levels of local authority together with an Independent Chair and an Advisory Forum Convenor.
- 1.2 The Board has held a series of meetings through 2022 and into 2023 and has established strong co-ordination across 25 or so projects spanning the town centre.
- 1.3 The Board also started the process of reviewing and updating the overarching Vision for Leamington Town Centre to move on the 2018 Vision by taking on-board the significant changes that have influenced the town centre since.
- 1.4 In order to complete this work with a number of inputs from the Advisory Forum, the Board would like to commission external specialist support in order to help draft and complete the Vision.
- 1.5 In addition to this, the Board would also like to establish a strong branding and web presence for Transforming Leamington and so would like to commission external support to prepare this.
- 1.6 The Board also anticipate the need to commission other similar pieces of work as preparation of the Leamington Transformation Framework progresses.
- 1.7 As such, the Board has requested an amount of £50,000 from the Community Projects Reserves 2023/24 in order to be able to draw from as it needs to procure the appropriate support using WDC's assistance.
- 1.8 It is suggested that authority is delegated to the Head of Place, Arts and Economy, in consultation with the Independent Chair of the Leamington Transformation Board to use this allocation at their discretion in support of the aims of objectives of the Board.

2 Alternative Options

- 2.1 Members could opt not to support the allocation of funds and not grant the delegation as recommended in this report.
- 2.2 This option is not recommended by officers as this would hamper the ability of the Leamington Transformation Board to progress the important work of transforming Leamington's town centre.

3 Legal Implications

3.1 There are no legal implications of the proposals.

4 Financial

4.1 The Leamington Transformation Board is made up of Members of Warwickshire County Council (WCC), Warwick District Council and Leamington Town Council. This contribution of £50,000 from WDC is to be matched with "in-kind" officer support from WCC and a contribution of around £10,000 from Leamington Town Council.

4.2 The Budget for 2023/24 made provision for the Community Project reserve for £500,000. This proposal would leave £450k remaining not taking into account any other items on this agenda.

5 Business Strategy

5.1 Health, Homes, Communities – This proposal will make a direct contribution to supporting health and well-being, community cohesion and activity of those communities who utilise Leamington's town centre.

5.2 Green, Clean, Safe – The proposal will enable the context within which public space improvements will contribute toward improvements in the quality of the environment generally.

5.3 Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment – The proposals will make a very significant contribution toward improving Leamington's town centre and support for enterprise and employment.

5.4 Effective Staff – The proposal does not have a direct impact on the effectiveness of staff.

5.5 Maintain or Improve Services – The proposal does not have a direct impact on service improvement or efficiency.

5.6 Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term – The programme will revitalise underused assets, bringing capital investment to the town centre and in turn revitalise the economy and revenue to the Council as a result.

6 Environmental/Climate Change Implications

6.1 The Board have agreed that climate change considerations should be at the heart of the town centre vision. In providing a resource to support the development of that vision, the proposal to draw down funding will help to ensure the vision provides a strong framework for a programme of work that addresses climate change, air quality and a range of other environmental considerations.

7 Analysis of the effects on Equality

7.1 This report has no impact of itself on equality and diversity matters but the Transformation Programme should enable a more accessible town centre.

8 Data Protection

8.1 There are no data protection implications of the proposal.

9 Health and Wellbeing

9.1 The Transforming Leamington programme supports the revitalisation of Leamington Spa town centre. One of the primary objectives of the programme is to improve the health and well-being of residents and visitors as well as those who work in the town centre by providing usable, modern, sustainable and attractive places. As well as the obvious economic benefits these projects

will bring to the town centre, it is of prime importance that the health and well-being of all those who utilise them will be improved through the rejuvenation of the built environment in the town centre.

10 Risk Assessment

10.1 The deployment of the allocation will be via discussion with the Leamington Transformation Board and in particular with the Independent Chair through which any risks will be managed through that process. However, formally any financial decision is to be delegated to the Head of Place, Arts and Economy providing another layer of risk management.

11 Consultation

11.1 The Leamington Transformation Board has access to an Advisory Forum consisting of a wide range of people and organisations that can contribute to the future of the town centre. Inputs will be sought by the Board from this Forum throughout the process.

Background papers:

N/A

Supporting documents:

N/A