



**CABINET**

**19<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2018**

**AGENDA ITEM (11)**

**FUNDING REQUEST - ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT DELIVERY OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Accountable Member</b>              | Councillor Mark F Annett<br>Leader of the Council   |
| <b>Accountable Officer</b>             | Jenny Poole<br>Chief Finance Officer<br>01285 623313<br>jenny.poole@cotswold.gov.uk   |
| <b>Purpose of Report</b>               | To consider funding requests to provide additional resources to support the delivery of Council Priorities - the resources to be funded from earmarked reserves previously set aside for this purpose.  |
| <b>Recommendation(s)</b>               | <b>That funding of £90,000 be approved from the Council Priorities Fund, to support the delivery of Council Priorities.</b>   |
| <b>Reason(s) for Recommendation(s)</b> | The additional funding for 2018/19 will support the Council's aim to be recognised as the most efficient Council in the country and its priorities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide high quality services at the lowest possible cost to Council Taxpayers;</li><li>• Protect and enhance the local environment whilst supporting economic growth; and</li><li>• Champion issues which are important to local people.</li></ul>            |
| <b>Ward(s) Affected</b>                | Not applicable as the funding request relates to the Council's corporate capacity to deliver against Council Priorities.<br><br>However, individual projects will affect certain Wards. The Wards affected will be identified in decision making reports relating to individual projects.   |
| <b>Key Decision</b>                    | No  |
| <b>Recommendation to Council</b>       | No  |
| <b>Financial Implications</b>          | The Council has established an earmarked reserve, the Council Priorities Fund, to provide one-off funding to support the delivery of the Council Priorities. As at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2018, the Council Priorities Fund balance was £2.5 million. There are various commitments identified within the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) which will be funded from the Fund. The unallocated balance as per the latest MTFS is £0.7 million. |

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | The Council Priorities Fund therefore has capacity to finance the £90,000 request for one-off funding set out in this report.   |
| <b>Legal and Human Rights Implications</b>           | None arising directly from this report.   |
| <b>Environmental and Sustainability Implications</b> | None arising directly from this report.   |
| <b>Human Resource Implications</b>                   | Should Cabinet approve the funding request, Officers will determine how the resources will be utilised most efficiently to deliver the projects and work set out in this report. This is likely to be a mix of commissioning specialist consultancy support and temporary additional Officer support.         |
| <b>Key Risks</b>                                     | The Cabinet could choose not to recommend the release of funding. However, there are risks associated with standards of service delivery and/or delays to delivery of Council priorities as set out in the Council's Corporate Strategy; or delivery of savings through the Publica transformation programme. |
| <b>Equalities Analysis</b>                           | No effect on protected groups identified.   |

|                             |      |
|-----------------------------|------|
| <b>Related Decisions</b>    | None |
| <b>Background Documents</b> | None |
| <b>Appendices</b>           | None |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Performance Management Follow Up</b> | (i) Implement Cabinet decision(s).<br>(ii) Expenditure against the additional funding will be monitored as part of the regular budgetary monitoring processes. |
|---|--|

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Options for Joint Working</b> | The additional resources will be shared across this Council and West Oxfordshire District Council. The funding request is based upon a 50/50 share of the funding for the additional resources. This work is seen as additional to the normal business as usual workload and is a consequence of the scale of ambition set out by the Council in signing up to the Priorities above. |
|----------------------------------|--|

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Background Information</b>   |  |
| 1. <u>General Background</u>  |  |
| 1.1 Over the years, the Council has prudently set aside underspends against the budget and other windfall gains into an earmarked reserve, the Council Priorities Fund, for subsequent use to provide one-off funding to support the delivery of Council Priorities as set out in its Corporate Strategy. The 2018/19 update to the Corporate Strategy is due to be considered at this Cabinet Meeting.   |  |
| 1.2 Capacity issues have been raised in the Legal and Property; Finance; and Environmental and Regulatory service areas. In order to ensure that these service areas can (i) continue to deliver services to the standards set out in the Council's contract with Publica, (ii) support the Publica transformation programme, and (iii) support delivery of the Council's priorities, additional funding of £90,000 is required for the period August 2018 to March 2019. |  |

1.3 This work is seen as additional to the normal 'business as usual' workload and is a consequence of the scale of ambition set out by the Council in its Corporate Strategy.

## 2. Alternatives/Options

The Cabinet could choose not to recommend the release of funding. However, there are risks associated with standards of service delivery and/or delays to delivery of Council priorities as set out in the Council Plan; or delivery of savings through the Publica transformation programme.

## 3. Financial Implications

3.1 The allocation of £90,000 will support the following service areas:

| <b>Service Area</b>                   | <b>Recommended Additional Funding for 2018/19</b> |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Finance                               | £20,000   |
| Legal Services                        | £10,000   |
| Property/Estates                      | £30,000   |
| Environmental and Regulatory Services | £30,000   |
| <b>Total Funding Allocation</b>       | <b>£90,000</b>                                    |

3.2 The additional funding in the Finance service is required in order to support projects such as: the investment in the Waterloo Car Park, Gloucestershire One Public Estate, refurbishment of the Corinium Museum, Cirencester Supplementary Planning Document (Cirencester Masterplan), proposed changes to the Council's recycling services, and the implications of changes to central government funding on the Council's financial strategy.

3.3 The additional funding in Legal Services is required in order to support work required on Section 106 agreements, planning enforcement, blanket removal of permitted development rights (Article 4), and contract work resulting from various projects and other procurement-led services.

3.4 The additional funding in Property/Estates services is required in order to support projects such as: Waterloo Car Park, Brewery Court Development, Old Memorial Hospital, Kemble Community Gardens, Gloucestershire One Public Estate, refurbishment of the Corinium Museum, and Cirencester Supplementary Planning Document (Cirencester Masterplan).

3.5 The additional funding in Environmental and Regulatory Services is necessary in order to improve performance in the private water supplies and licensing service areas.

(END)