



DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	28 SEPTEMBER 2020	8
TOWN CENTRES WORKING GROUP UPDATE AND PROPOSALS TO SUPPORT THE REGENERATION OF ST ANNES TOWN CENTRE			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

The Planning Committee at its meeting on 16 September 2020 considered an updated report in relation to the Town Centres Working Group and proposals to support the regeneration of St Annes Town Centre.

A copy of the full report that went to the Planning committee can be accessed via this [link](#).

Amongst other things, the report recommended that the Finance & Democracy Committee approve a revenue funded budget increase for 2020/21 in the sum of £150,000, to be funded from the Funding Volatility Reserve, to provide for the commissioning of a vision/strategy for St Annes Town Centre, such vision to include a town centre health check and be informed by the survey results and working group proposals for St Annes.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to:

1. To approve a revenue funded budget increase for 2020/21 in the sum of £150,000, to be funded from the Funding Volatility Reserve, to provide for the commissioning of a vision/strategy for St Annes Town Centre, such vision to include a town centre health check and be informed by the survey results and working group proposals for St Annes.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Council 5 March 2020

Resolved - That the regeneration of St Annes town centre will be a priority commitment of the Council, with the first call on the Funding Volatility Reserve to be in support of this initiative;

Planning Committee - 11 March 2020

Resolved- To establish a Town Centres Working Group comprising a core group of 7 councillors namely: Councillors Richard Redcliffe, Liz Oades, David O'Rourke, Stan Trudgill, Michael Sayward, Roger Small and Michael Withers with Minutes - Planning Committee – 11 March 2020 Councillors Cheryl Little and Viv Willder being co-opted as and when appropriate to consider matters relating to St Annes Town Centre.

Planning Committee – 16 September 2020

Resolved - To approve a revenue funded budget increase for 2020/21 in the sum of £150,000, to be funded from the Funding Volatility Reserve, to provide for the commissioning of a vision/strategy for St Annes Town Centre, such vision to include a town centre health check and be informed by the survey results and working group proposals for St Annes.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services (Value for Money)	✓
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council (Clean and Green)	✓
Working with all partners (Vibrant Economy)	✓
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live (A Great Place to Live)	✓
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit (A Great Place to Visit)	✓

REPORT

1. At its meeting on 11 March 2020, The Planning Committee resolved to establish a Town Centres Working Group. Its Terms of Reference were reiterated in the report to Planning Committee on 16 September (See link to report)
2. Since it was established, the working group has met (via Zoom) on 9 occasions with a smaller subgroup of 3 members and a representative of St Annes on the Sea Town Council meeting separately to consider a number of site specific issues in St Annes town centre that benefitted from a physical inspection. The group was limited in size in order to comply with Covid secure guidelines.
3. With the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic, the working group initially considered several interventions to assist in the safe reopening of the high street. As customers and business owners have become accustomed to the new way of life that the continuing situation requires to be observed, the working group has been able to consider a number of longer term projects that will benefit the three town centres and assist in maintaining and improving their prosperity as part of the wider Covid recovery.
4. The working group is currently exploring a number of initiatives for each of the borough's town centres. The Planning Committee supported the submission of funding bids to the Future High Street Fund (FHSF) and Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) programmes in Kirkham. The council has also identified capital funding to address a number of issues previously identified in Lytham. The Working Group is now working to understand the likely budgetary implications of a number of projects in St Annes. As these are still under consideration members will be presented with an outline of the latest projects and estimated costs involved at the meeting.
5. In 2013/14, the council established a funding volatility reserve from additional Business Rates received under the Business Rate Retention Scheme. The budget report to council in March 2020 identified that the reserve currently stands at £5.221m. As part of that report members made a commitment to the regeneration and revitalisation of St Annes town centre and that this should be a priority for the Council's Funding Volatility Reserve.
6. In order to better understand the issues that St Annes Town Centre is facing and to support any future applications for central government funding it is considered necessary to commission a town centre health check. This would be undertaken by specialist consultants and is estimated to cost in the region of £20-30k, depending upon the scope of the commission. The findings of the health check would inform the production of a revised town centre strategy for St Annes which in turn would act as a vehicle to deliver a new vision for St Annes town centre. This wider piece of work would be a similar undertaking to the work carried out to support the Kirkham Future High Street Fund final business case (which included a town centre health check), funded by a grant of £150,000 provided by central government. Accordingly, the Planning Committee at its meeting on 16 September 2020 recommended that the Finance & Democracy Committee approve a revenue budget increase for 2020/21 in the sum of £150,000, funded from the Funding Volatility Reserve, to provide for the commissioning of a town centre health check and town centre strategy.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	This report recommends approval of a revenue funded budget increase for 2020/21 in the sum of £150,000, funded from the Funding Volatility Reserve, for the commissioning of a town centre health check for St Annes.
Legal	No implications
Community Safety	No implications
Human Rights and Equalities	No implications
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	The commissioning of a town centre health check will ensure any proposals and actions which emerge are founded on need.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	No implications

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
None	NA	NA