

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	COUNCIL	5 JULY 2021	13
UNFUNDED REVENUE BUDGET INCREASE – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAM RESOURCING			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY

The report deals with a request from the Planning Committee for Council to approve an unfunded revenue budget increase to support the resourcing of the Economic Development Team.

In summary, the Planning Committee at its meeting on 23 June 2021 sought Council's approval for an unfunded revenue budget increase of £15,657 during the current financial year (2021/22) and £32,176 in 2022/23 and subsequent years, together with inflationary increases to allow for the appointment of a full time (37 hrs per week) Economic Development and Regeneration Manager and to increase the hours of the Technical Support Officer (Regeneration) to 29.5 hours per week.

Over recent years, the focus of the Council's corporate objectives have evolved to place greater emphasis on the delivery of strategic economic development initiatives. In addition, the government is seeking to improve the quality of new development in terms of urban design and sustainable development. To ensure the Economic Development and Regeneration Team is best placed to address these evolving ambitions, the Planning Committee recommended the proposed expenditure to enable the roles within the team to be reviewed and the structure of the team refreshed.

RECOMMENDATION

Council is recommended:

To approve an unfunded revenue budget increase of £15,657 during the current financial year (2021/22) and £32,176 in 2022/23 and subsequent years, together with inflationary increases in subsequent years to allow for the appointment of a full time (37 hrs per week) Economic Development and Regeneration Manager and to increase the hours of the Technical Support Officer (Regeneration) to 29.5 hours per week.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Finance and Democracy Committee – 23 November 2020

1. Approve a revenue funded budget increase (to be split between the years 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, and 2023/24) in the total sum of £45,000, to be funded from the Funding Volatility Reserve, in order to provide the required level of resource for the appointment of an Enterprise Zone Project Manager;
2. Approve a revenue funded budget increase (to be split between the years 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24) in the total sum of £246,000, to be funded from the Funding Volatility Reserve, in order to provide the required resource for the appointment of a Town Centres Manager and an Economic Development Officer;

3. Approve a revenue funded budget increase of £5,000 for 2020/21 and £25,000 for 2021/22, to be funded from the Funding Volatility Reserve, in order to provide an enhanced financial resource in respect of the existing St Annes town centre maintenance budget;
4. Authorise the proposed expenditure to fund the recruitment of an Enterprise Zone Project Manager for a temporary period of 3 years;
5. Authorise the proposed expenditure to fund the recruitment of a Town Centres Manager and Economic Development Officer, each for a temporary period of 3 years; and

Planning Committee – 23 June 2021

1. That Council be requested to approve an unfunded revenue budget increase of £15,657 during the current financial year (2021/22) and £32,176 in 2022/23 and subsequent years, together with inflationary increases in subsequent years.
2. That Council be requested to authorise the proposed expenditure to allow the appointment of a full time (37 hrs per week) Economic Development and Regeneration Manager and to increase the hours of the Technical Support Officer (Regeneration) to 29.5 hours per week.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	√
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	√
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	√

REPORT

1. The Planning Committee at its meeting on 23 June 2021 considered matters associated with the resourcing of the Economic Development and Regeneration Team.
2. Over recent years the Council, through its Corporate Plan, has placed increased emphasis on the economic development of the borough. Over the coming years, the Economic Development and Regeneration Team will be responsible for delivering the Heritage Action Zone and Future High Street Fund programmes in Kirkham, delivering major improvement works in the Lytham and St Annes Town Centres in addition to other initiatives across the borough including the promotion of the two Enterprise Zones.
3. In addition, the Planning for the Future White Paper issued in August 2020 sets out the UK Government's proposals to improve the design and sustainability of new developments. This sits alongside the Government's existing 25-year action plan to improve the environment which includes a commitment to significantly boost tree planting and protect the natural environment.
4. The recovery of the local economy from the impacts of the pandemic is also a priority for the Council and the work of the Economic Development and Regeneration Team is key to developing and delivering initiatives to assist in this.
5. A number of recent appointments and successful bids for Government funding have seen the size of the Economic Development and Regeneration Team and the projects they will be delivering over the next few years grow. It is already apparent that additional resources will be required within the team to deliver the objectives set out in the Corporate Plan and the governments emerging design and natural environment agenda.
6. The current Regeneration Manager will be retiring be towards the end of September and it is considered timely to undertake a review of the structure of the Economic Development and Regeneration Team.
7. The proposed structure of the Economic Development and Regeneration Team and the associated financial implications were set out in the report to the Planning Committee. A copy the full report is available at t1/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/1265/Committee/20/Default.aspx "[Planning Committee Report](#)."

8. The staffing proposals would require additional resource with the hours of the service manager increasing from 29.5 to 37 per week at the same grade and the technical support officer increasing from 18.5 to 29.5 hrs per week also at the same grade.
9. The report seeks approval of an unfunded revenue funded budget increase of £15,657 for the current financial year (2021/22) and £32,176 in 2022/23 and subsequent years, together with inflationary increases in subsequent years to allow for the appointment of a full time (37 hrs per week) Economic Development and Regeneration Manager and to increase the hours of the Technical Support Officer (Regeneration) to 29.5 hours per week. The Medium-Term Financial Strategy will be updated to reflect these additional costs.
10. It is considered that the revised staffing structure set out in the appendix will allow the Economic Development and Regeneration Team to deliver both the council's and the government's emerging economic development and sustainable development objectives.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The report seeks approval of an unfunded revenue funded budget increase of £15,657 for the current financial year (2021/22) and £32,176 in 2022/23 and subsequent years, together with inflationary increases in subsequent years. The next update of the council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy will be updated to reflect these additional costs.
Legal	There are no implications
Community Safety	There are no implications
Human Rights and Equalities	There are no implications
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	There are no implications
Health & Safety and Risk Management	There are no implications

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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Planning permission 12/0465	1 October 2012	http://www.fylde.gov.uk www.fylde.gov.uk
Committee Report	23 June 2021	Planning Committee Report