

BRIEFING NOTE

2018/19 Budget - Capital and revenue review

(For consideration by Finance + General Purposes Committee 7 June 2018)

1. The purpose of this note is to seek the agreement of Committee to vire funds in the current budget to meet some unexpected commitments, and to agree the target spend on the Reeds Lane Play Area project.

CAPEX/one-off budget - Reeds Lane Play Area:

2. Following the decision of Council (Minute C17/114 Meeting 22 March 2018) desk studies have been undertaken to evaluate the possible funds available and the appropriate form of public consultation. The Council's Budget provides £5,000 but the studies make it clear that this alone would not be sufficient to provide any meaningful addition to the play area. It had been expected that the new Kingsland Laines development in Sayers Common would release significant s106 funds, but it is now evident that it will be some time before the development proceeds and any funds are released. However, a smaller sum of £5,361 has been identified as part of the Chalkers Lane development in Hurstpierpoint, for which no allocation has been yet made, which could be requested to be added to the project.

The Committee is asked to consider whether it is willing to support 'Hurstpierpoint' s106 funds being allocated to 'Sayers Common'.

3. Further budget allocations exist which might not be wholly spent in 2018/19:

(a) Cuckfield Road feasibility study: £5,000

Some work is now progressing on this matter, but supported by WSCC and with some allocated s106 funds from the Little Park development. It is suggested that funds of £1,000 are retained in the budget for some data acquisition, leaving £4,000 unused.

(b) Cycle route feasibility: £5,000

Again, work is progressing and there is a possibility that some monies could be spent on changes to the twittens in Hurstpierpoint (signage and marking), although there is no certainty that agreement and permission will be achieved in the current budget year. It is suggested that funds of £1,000 are retained in the budget for some data acquisition, leaving £4,000 unused.

4. The possible funding for the Reeds Lane Play Area could therefore be:

Planned budget	£5,000
S106 Chalkers Lane	£5,361
Vire from Cuckfield Road	£4,000
Vire from Cycle Route	£1,000
Total:	£15,361

5. The Committee is therefore asked to agree to the above allocation and revised budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

(1) The following budget allocations are made to fund the Reeds Lane Play Area project:

Vire from Cuckfield Road feasibility £4,000

Vire from Cycle Route feasibility £1,000

(2) Application is made for £5,361 s106 funds

Revenue budget – maintenance works:

6. Since the budget was cast in late 2017 a number of new matters have arisen for which appropriate maintenance or repairs should be undertaken:

Item	Note	2018/19 cost £	2019/20 cost £
1. Chantry Stables	The Council had previously made an undertaking to carry out external repairs to the building (on a short lease to Hurst Community Charity) . At the time of the Budget being set it was occupied by the Co-op who had made a number of improvements to the building. However, on vacating it was clear that the external works had to be done and no specific budget provision had been made in late 2017. The Committee has approved a contract for the works. This work is committed for 2018/19	9,306	

Item	Note	2018/19 cost £	2019/20 cost £
2. Cemetery Wall	An architect has been commissioned to produce a report. The full restoration cost is £40-70,000. It is suggested that a low-cost fencing/hedging option would be achievable. It is suggested that this work is undertaken in 2018/19	3,090 6,000	
3. Bus Shelter (Village Garden)	Both Hurstpierpoint shelters were scheduled for refurbishment in 2016, and the War Memorial shelter was completed. However, the Village Garden shelter was postponed because it was anticipated that a new 'bandstand' style might be introduced. Recent decisions by council suggest that any significant streetscene changes are not likely to be introduced in the near-term, so the refurbishment should go ahead. It is suggested that this work is planned for 2019/20		3,500
4. Bus Shelter (Sayers Common)	The shelter would benefit from some refurbishment. It is suggested that this work is planned for 2019/20		1,000
5. South Ave road repair	A significant pothole has formed at the entrance to the Council-owned section of road. A quotation has been obtained. It is suggested that this work is undertaken in 2018/19	2,000	
6. Chapel maintenance	This was last refurbished in 2008, but it is very rarely used as a Chapel. It is suggested that this it has some external refurbishment only. It is suggested that this work is planned for 2019/20		2,500
TOTAL		20,400	7,000

7. The revenue budget 2018/19 for maintenance works comprises:

Item	Amount	Note
Chantry Stables	500	
Rights of way	3000	No projects have been identified for action. The Hurst Meadows budget provides for footpaths in its curtilage.
Shelters, repairs	600	
Burgess Hill Maintenance Team	3500	The Team is redeployed from June 2018, resulting from WSCC decision. So no further expenditure is committed.
TOTAL	7,600	

The Committee is therefore asked to note that there is an estimated shortfall of £12,800 in the 2018/19 revenue budget. This overspend can be met from reserves, there having been an underspend on the streetlighting replacement project of approximately £15,000 (depending on the final account settlement), and funds of £30,392 are currently in earmarked reserves against the streetlighting project.

8. It is acknowledged that the Council would benefit from an assets maintenance plan covering all property and a routine cycle of maintenance, to enable better future budgeting. It is intended that a plan would be produced in time for the next Budget 2019/20.

RECOMMENDATION: The Committee is asked to agree to the reallocation of budget for 2018/19, to note the shortfall and to plan for the allocation in the 2019/20 maintenance budget.

Stephen Hoyles
CLERK TO THE COUNCIL
29 May 2018
