

VIREMENT OF FUNDS FROM THE WARD DISCRETIONARY BUDGET TO THE WARD FLEXIBILITY FUNDING BUDGET

Report of the Assistant Director – Legal & Democratic Governance

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report outlines a proposal for the virement of funds from the Ward Discretionary Budget to the Ward Flexibility Funding Budget.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the Budget Council Meeting on 23 February 2023, approval was given to the allocation of £0.260m to fund the creation and administration of a Ward Discretionary Budget to provide each ward with an additional discretionary sum of £10,000 to spend on ward priorities.
- 2.2 In administering the fund, ward councillors are requested to identify ward priorities and develop proposals for individual schemes that support the environmental, economic or social wellbeing of residents within the ward which could be funded from the new £10,000 allocation.
- 2.3 As part of the delegation arrangements approved by the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources has responsibility for the final approval of any release of funding allocations from the Ward Discretionary Budget. This will follow the receipt of recommendations from area committees and the expectation that it will be accompanied with the full support of all Members in the ward.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1 As outlined within paragraph 6 of the Policy Framework and Budget Procedure Rules (PR2) in the Constitution, Area Committees are entitled to vire across budget heads to the extent permitted by the Financial Procedure Rules. However, as the Ward Discretionary Budget is one held by the Cabinet Member, it will require their final approval to appropriate the funding.

Bramhall South & Woodford ward

- 3.2 Bramhall South & Woodford ward councillors have requested the virement of funds from the Ward Discretionary Budget to the Ward Flexibility Funding Budget to make a grant of £350 to the Friends of Bramall Hall & Park towards the training and fastening of trees, for a community orchard.

Bramhall North ward

- 3.3 Bramhall North ward councillors have requested the virement of funds from the Ward Discretionary Budget to the Ward Flexibility Funding Budget to make a grant of £350 to the Friends of Bramall Hall & Park towards the training and fastening of trees, for a community orchard.

Cheadle Hulme South ward

- 3.4 Cheadle Hulme South ward councillors have requested the virement of funds from the Ward Discretionary Budget to the Ward Flexibility Funding Budget to make a grant of £300 to the Friends of Bramall Hall & Park towards the training and fastening of trees, for a community orchard.
- 3.5 Alternatively, Cheadle Hulme South ward councillors may choose to vire additional sums in order to make up the budgetary shortfall associated with the making of the grants detailed in the Ward Flexibility Funding applications presented elsewhere on this agenda. Should this be the preferred option, councillors are asked to specify the total sum they seek to vire.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The Area Committee is requested to recommend that the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources gives approval to:-
- (1) A virement of £350 from the Ward Discretionary Budget to the Ward Flexibility Funding Budget (Bramhall South & Woodford ward allocation).
 - (2) A virement of £350 from the Ward Discretionary Budget to the Ward Flexibility Funding Budget (Bramhall North ward allocation).
 - (3) A virement of £300 from the Ward Discretionary Budget to the Ward Flexibility Funding Budget (Cheadle Hulme South ward allocation).

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Georgia Latham on telephone number Tel: 0161 474 3229 or alternatively email georgia.latham@stockport.gov.uk