

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.
- 3.2 At the meeting on 4 March 2024, Reddish South ward councillors requested the virement of funds from the Ward Discretionary Budget to the Ward Flexibility Funding Budget in order to make up the budgetary shortfall associated with the making of the following grant:-

<u>Ward Flexibility Funding Application</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Stockport Armed Forces Community Organisation (SAFCO)	£100

- 3.3 Given that Reddish South ward councillors had spent a total of £9,500 of their £10,000 allocation and identified no further proposals that they wished to fund through the Ward Discretionary Budget, Reddish South ward councillors requested the virement of the remaining £500 in the Ward Discretionary Budget to the Ward

Flexibility Funding Budget in order to consider future Ward Flexibility Funding applications.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The Area Committee is requested to recommend that the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources gives approval to a virement of £500 from the Ward Discretionary Budget to the Ward Flexibility Funding Budget (Reddish 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