

REPORT TO EVENTS AND TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE BUDGET 2023/24



Report Reference E-22-06
Meeting Date 3rd October 2022
Agenda Item 8
Prepared by Town Clerk

1.0 BACKGROUND

The committee is required to set its draft budget for the financial year 2023/24. This draft budget will then be referred to the Finance Committee which will recommend a full budget to Full Council.

The draft budget is split into three sections covering the previous (2021/22) financial year, current financial year and the next financial year, which starts on 1st April 2023. The 2021 column shows actual spend against budget. The 2022 column shows the current budget (total), actual spend year to date, projected spend by year end and commitments. The 2023 column shows agreed (i.e. draft) budget; the ERM and carried forward columns are not used.

This report provides a summary of the changes within the cost centres.

2.0 COST CENTRE COMMENTARY

401 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

This budget covers the costs of the switch on event and parades. Due to securing sponsorship for the current year there is a slight surplus against budget forecast. The budget for 2023 includes the costs of the Lantern Parade as proposed in the 2023 Events Programme report.

402 CHRISTMAS MARKET

The cost centre includes the current forecast income and expenditure of the event. As previously reported, due to supplier increases the expected has been reduced in both the current and next financial year but it remains profitable.

403 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The unmetered supply costs for power have increased four-fold and as such higher utilities costs are forecast.

404 CRIB SERVICE

There is a minor adjustment to costs. 2023 assumes Lantern Parade is moved to the Santa Parade.

410 FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL

The event ran at a cost of £663 instead of a surplus of £595, due to lower than anticipated income and higher costs (predominantly the need to hire generators). No provision is made for 2023 as per the previous report.

412 ART TRAIL

There was a minor underspend in the current financial year. No provision is made for 2023 as per the previous report.

415 TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT

An underspend is projected due to the vacancy in the Town Centre and Marketing Officer position resulting in reduced ability to deliver. Budget for the Coach Friendly Town Scheme has been created in 2023 from a minor reduction to 4300/4630 as it is hoped coach parking will be made available in 2023 to enable the scheme to be progressed.

417 AL FRESCO DINING

This is a new cost centre to make costs transparent. It projects an unexpected spend due to the cancellation of events after some costs had been incurred.

No provision has been made in the 2023/24 financial year as the proposal had been a cost neutral initiative.

420 PUMPKIN PATH

A minor increase in costs is proposed for 2023 to provide some bandwidth for increased supplier/contractor costs without reducing the event offer.

421 BUNNY HOP

No significant changes.

425 KNUTSFORDIAJN EXHIBITION

This event did not run in 2022 and is not proposed for 2023.

430 TOWN AWARDS

No significant changes.

435 REFRSH KNUTSFORD

No significant changes. Minor underspend in current year.

440 KNUTSFORD MUSIC FESTIVAL

The event was delivered slightly underbudget due to strong sales for the Kate Rusby event (in particular) and the introduction of a bar to generate direct income. The 2023 budget presumes operating a bar at certain events again and also provides a net £500 additional budget for the event

to enable additional resource to be deployed to naturally enhance the event and protect against contractor cost increases.

445 TASTE KNUTSFORD

No significant changes. The service projects to deliver a minor income to the council in the current and next financial years.

450 OTHER EVENTS

The current year contributions are awaited to increase the accuracy of projected/next year figures for the Makers Market income. This has been chased and will be adjusted accordingly. There is a minor underspend on professional fees due to securing agreement with CEC not to invoice for road closure orders which were cancelled at short notice due to COVID in the 2020/21 financial year.

Additional budget has been provided in 2023 for bunting replacement as the council's contractor has advised many of the bunting strings have deteriorated and would be unlikely to last another season.

455 KNUTSFORD VOUCHER SCHEME

The current year projects a minor income from unclaimed vouchers, whilst the 2023 budget presumes breakeven. Once the council has more data a more accurate estimate of the annual amount unclaimed can be assessed.

475 SPECIAL PROJECTS

This cost centre is the WWII Memories Project which was funded by Heritage Lottery Fund. It forecasts complete expenditure and no provision in 2023 (project completed).

3.0 SUMMARY

The current projected expenditure for the 2022/23 financial year is £58,230, a minor underspend of £1,170.

The draft budget for 2023/24 is a net expenditure of £57,365 a minor decrease on the current year of £2,035.