

REPORT TO EVENTS COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE BUDGET 2025/26

Report Reference E-24-07
Meeting Date 30th September 2024
Agenda Item 9
Prepared by Town Clerk



1.0 INTRODUCTION

Each committee is required to set a draft budget for the financial year commencing 1st April 2025. All draft budgets will then be amalgamated and presented to a special meeting of the Finance Committee in December where the committee will agree a recommendation to Full Council for a budget and precept.

The draft budget is split into three sections covering the previous (2023/24) financial year, current financial year and the next financial year. The 2023 column shows actual spend against budget. The 2024 column shows the current budget (total), actual spend year to date, projected spend by year end and commitments. The 2024 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. Inflationary increases have been applied to various budget lines as appropriate.

2.0 COST CENTRE COMMENTARY

401 CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON

No significant changes, marketing costs reduced as the larger printed programmes produced to date are being reduced to a simpler flyer.

402 CHRISTMAS MARKET

A revised pricing system was introduced for the current year which has slightly increased income forecasts. The larger fairground which generated the “misc income” income will be smaller and in a different location this year, as it was not viable, which slightly reduces income. This year a trial of keeping stalls half-up over night (to reduce contractor costs in dismantling and re-erecting stalls) will be trialled which will slightly reduce costs. The budget for 2025 assumes some cost increases due to the contract being up for re-tendering.

404 CRIB SERVICE

No significant changes.

420 PUMPKIN PATH

No significant changes.

421 BUNNY HOP

Due to the timing of Easter, the current financial year does not have a Bunny Hop. No changes to the budget.

425 PICNIC IN THE PARK

The proposed budget has been amended to reflect the arrangements for the first event. Now the format has been tested it will be refined for 2025.

427 OPEN AIR CINEMA

This is a new centre for a new proposed event as covered in report E-24-05

428 OUTDOOR THEATRE / CRTA

This is a new centre for a new proposed event as covered in report E-24-05.

431 EXHIBITIONS

This was the budget for the exhibition at Knutsford Heritage Centre to mark the council's 50th anniversary, it was delivered under budget as the design of the panels was undertaken in house and there wasn't an official opening event.

432 PAINT KNUTSFORD

This is a new centre for a new proposed event as covered in report E-24-05.

440 MUSIC FESTIVAL

The 2024 event was delivered close to budget. The next budget for 2025 is not significantly different to the current year.

450 OTHER EVENTS/PROJECTS

A small budget is provided under Commemorative Events for a small event to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II.

There is no forecast expenditure for *Young Artist of the Year*, it is planned this will be rekindled for 2025 potentially coinciding with the Paint Knutsford event.

An equipment purchase budget of £2,000 has been included to enable the purchase of marquees and tables/benches which could be used at outdoor events e.g. music on the moor, picnic in the park, mayor's BBQ and Remembrance Sunday,

460 HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Funding was obtained through the Shared Prosperity Fund to fund branding/design work and

promotional materials which can be used annually. This will enable the event to run on a small budget.

475 SPECIAL PROJECTS

The returned grants projection is the underspend on the Heritage Lottery funded *Memories of World War II* project. The projected expenditure is the delivery of the *50 Things To Do* initiative which has been delayed due to resource constraints but is intended for delivery for summer 2025.

3.0 DECISION REQUIRED

The committee should agree a draft budget.