



Cabinet

Item
8(i)

9 March 2022

Report of **Chief Operating Officer**

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Title **Additional New Homes Bonus Allocations 2022/23**

Wards affected **All**

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The report recommends allocation of £254k of New Homes Bonus and other spending priorities to deliver the Strategic Plan priorities in 2022/23.

2 Recommended Decision

- 2.1 To approve the New Homes Bonus allocations set out in Appendix A.

3 Reason for Recommended Decision

- 3.1 To utilise New Homes Bonus in full for 2022/23 and take forward the Council's Strategic Plan.

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 Not to allocate the unallocated £254k New Homes Bonus in 2022-23.

5 Summary of Council Funding

- 5.1 The 2022/23 Budget approved by 23 February 2022 Full Council included a balance of £254k New Homes Bonus for future allocation as set out in Appendix A of this report.
- 5.2 Appendix A also identifies where existing budget commitments will be utilised to deliver the Council's key spending priorities in 2022/23.

6 Risk Management Implications

- 6.1 Staff and support costs reflect current assumptions but will be subject to the progress of our transformation work.
- 6.2 Modelling has been undertaken with service managers to assess the potential range of impacts before adopting the assumptions described within the report.

- 6.3 The Council will spend within budget in 2021/22 so following Cabinet approval the projects may proceed immediately with expenditure in 2021/22 if required.

7 Financial implications

- 7.1 As set out in the report.

8 Environmental and Climate Change Implications

- 8.1 All proposals have been assessed for their likely environmental impact, reflecting the Council's commitment to be 'carbon neutral' by 2030. Environment and Climate Change is an essential cross-cutting theme in the Council's recovery planning and a core theme of the new Strategic Plan.

9 Equality and Diversity Implications

- 9.1 Consideration has been given to equality and diversity issues in respect of the allocations. This has been done in line with agreed policies and procedures including production of Equality Impact Assessments where appropriate.

10 Other Standard References

- 10.1 There are no direct Publicity, Human Rights, Community Safety or Health and Safety implications as a result of this report.

Appendix A: NHB 22/23 allocation

Strategic Plan Theme	Project	NHB £k	Existing Budget £k	Details
Tackling the climate challenge and leading sustainability	Woodland & Biodiversity project	102	34 ¹	To continue the Woodland and Biodiversity project for a fourth year.
	Lexden Park Lake	30		To support residents in maintaining water quality.
	Recycling Containers	30		To enable residents to continue to easily separate materials for recycling.
Creating safe, healthy, and active communities	CCTV Camera Deployment	40		To procure additional cameras and utilise the control room capacity in full.
Delivering homes for people who need them	Planning Enforcement	22		Additional funding to maintain temporary staffing arrangements during 2022/23.
	Planning Apprentice		10 ²	Compensation for a revenue budget shortfall
	Local Design Codes		140 ³	Developing local design codes to build beautiful
Growing a fair economy so everyone benefits	Masterplanning		100 ⁴	Contribution to joint masterplanning in the town centre with ECC
Celebrating our heritage and culture	Mosaics - feasibility	15		A feasibility study of mosaics in museum stores to explore the potential for further display.
	Gosbecks Research Project	15		To undertake geophysical surveys and groundworks at Gosbecks Archaeological Park.
		254	284	

Existing budget sources

¹ New funding built into the 2022/23 Revenue Budget

² Funded through additional planning income

³ 2022/23 Revenue Budget carry forward

⁴ 2022/23 feasibility funding