

**SUBJECT: REALLOCATION OF SECTION 106 FUNDING, MONMOUTH**

**MEETING: SINGLE MEMBER DECISION**

**DATE TO BE CONSIDERED: 27<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2018**

**DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL MONMOUTH WARDS**

### **1. PURPOSE**

To seek member approval to reallocate some underspent Section 106 funding previously allocated to two projects in Monmouth.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS that:**

- 2.1 the Council makes a further grant of £4,000 to the St Thomas Community Hall project for the completion of the garden works at that site;
- 2.2 the budget provision for the Chippenham Play Area project (Capital Budget Code 90827) be increased from £85,000 to £102,196;
- 2.3 the budget adjustments set out in recommendations (2) and (3) above be funded from the underspends of £20,000 on the Monmouth Gateway project and £1,196 on the Monmouth Petanque Terrain project (Capital Budget Codes 90820 and 90818 respectively);

### **3. KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 In 2014 the Council allocated Section 106 (S106) funding of £335,000 to eleven projects.
- 3.2 A grant of £9,962 was allocated to the Monmouth Petanque Club for a floodlighting project on the petanque terrain at the Rockfield Open Space. That project has been completed at a cost lower than the original estimate, which has resulted in an **underspend of £1,196**.
- 3.3 A grant of £50,000 was awarded to the Monmouth Gateway project, which had a total scheme value of £1.96million – the ability of the project to proceed was dependent on external funding applications that have not been made and the Gateway project has, unfortunately, no clear pathway forward at this point in time. In May 2016 it was decided to reallocate £30,000 of the £50,000 grant offered to the Gateway project to three other projects, namely:
  - £5,000 to the Nelson Garden project (which has since also received a grant of £86,400 from the National Heritage Fund to enable the works to proceed);
  - £20,000 to the St Thomas Community Hall project (which also received a £340,000 grant from the Welsh Government to enable most of the works to proceed);

- £5,000 grant to the Drybridge Play Area project (partnership scheme with Monmouth Town Council) – for which the works have now been completed.

This left a funding balance of £20,000 for the Gateway project. In 2016 a sub group of the Monmouth Partnership Forum submitted a bid to the Welsh Government's Create Your Space programme for some elements of the Gateway project, with a proposal to use the £20,000 balance as a match funding contribution. However, that bid was not successful so the **£20,000 balance remains unspent.**

- 3.4 With the knowledge that there is an underspend on some of the projects allocated funding from the Monmouth S106 balances, applications have been received from the St Thomas Community Hall and the Off Street project for further funding towards those schemes. The Off Street project wishes to resurface the pump (BMX bike) track at the site of the new skatepark in Rockfield Road – the estimates of cost for this provision vary between £10,000 and £25,000. There is already provision in the Section 106 Agreement for the recently approved Rockfield Road West development site to meet the cost of this particular project.
- 3.5 The St Thomas Community Hall (now renamed the Ty Price Centre) was opened earlier this year and the management committee has been successful in targeting many new groups to use the refurbished building. It is requesting a grant of £4,000 towards the final works to the rear garden of the building to enable groups to expand & use this area.

#### **4. OPTIONS APPRAISAL**

There is an option to open up the process to further applications but this is not considered to be the best way to proceed, given the limited timescale in which to spend the money and given the fact that there are two uncompleted S106 "beneficiary" projects that have demonstrated a clear need for further funding to enable them to be completed.

#### **5. EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Please see evaluation criteria set out in **Appendix A.**

#### **6. REASONS**

- 6.1 To ensure that the garden project at the St Thomas Community Centre can be completed;
- 6.2 To increase the available funding for the Chippenham Mead play area project – a report on that scheme will be submitted to the Cabinet meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> July;
- 6.3 To ensure that the funding can be spent before the "use by" date of August 2019 – failure to spend the money by this date means that the Council will have to repay the unused S106 contributions plus accrued interest back to the developer that made the contribution back in 2014.

## **7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

The S106 capital funding identified in this report has been received to improve play facilities in the local area, so the works proposed will not impact on existing capital or revenue budgets.

## **8. WELL BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING & CORPORATE PARENTING)**

See attached at **Appendix B**

## **9. CONSULTEES**

Cabinet Members	Local Members
Section 106 Working Group	Monmouth Town Council
Senior Leadership Team	
Assistant Head of Finance/Deputy S151 Officer	

## **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

None

## **11. AUTHOR**

Mike Moran, Community Infrastructure Coordinator

**Tel:** 07894 573834 **Email:** [mikemoran@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:mikemoran@monmouthshire.gov.uk)