

REPORT TO CORPORATE SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 29 September 2016

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

Date of Meeting: 11 October 2016

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 18 October 2016

Report of: Assistant Director Finance

Title: PINHOE COMMUNITY HUB

Is this a Key Decision?

No

* One that affects finances over £1m or significantly affects two or more wards. If this is a key decision then the item must be on the appropriate forward plan of key decisions.

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

1.1 To seek approval for an expenditure budget of £100,000, to enable the funding set aside for the new Community Hub in Pinhoe to be allocated.

2. Recommendations:

It is recommended that Scrutiny Resources Committee and the Executive note the report and Council approves:

2.1 An expenditure budget of £100,000 as Exeter's contribution to the new Community Hub planned for Pinhoe.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

3.1 In July 2016, Council approved funds to be set aside in an earmarked reserve to support the building of a Community Hub in Pinhoe to replace the existing Library. Whilst the funding has been set aside, Council also needs to approve an expenditure budget to enable the funding to be used.

4. What are the resource implications including non financial resources.

4.1 The £100,000 has already been set aside in an earmarked reserve. New Homes Bonus funding in respect of new housing built in the Pinhoe area has enabled this funding to be allocated to the project. The funding will be released when the updated Business Plan is presented.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

5.1 The funds have already been set aside and are therefore built into the Council's medium term financial plan.

6. What are the legal aspects?

6.1 There are no legal aspects to the report.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

7.1 The report raises no issues for the Monitoring Officer.

8. Report details:

8.1 The library building at Pinhoe is in need of replacement and the Friends of Pinhoe Library have been working to both secure funding and produce plans for a new Community Hub on the site of the existing library. It is intended to develop a building that will provide more than just a replacement library, with meeting rooms, a café and other spaces incorporated to provide a wider community facility.

8.2 It is also intended to have a flexible space for the library, which can be used for other purposes when the library is not open.

8.3 The funding was set aside after approval at the July Council meeting and is currently held in an earmarked reserve. This report seeks approval to spend the funds set aside for the purposes approved in July.

8.4 The amount of new development in Pinhoe, has provided significant New Homes Bonus funds and it therefore considered appropriate to allocate some funding towards the new facility for the whole Community.

9. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

9.1 The funding will support the Council's commitment to the Community.

10. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

10.1 The funding is a contribution to an externally managed scheme. Risks for the scheme will be managed by the Friends of Pinhoe Library who are managing the project.

11. What is the impact of the decision on equality and diversity; health and wellbeing; safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults, community safety and the environment?

11.1 Not applicable

12. Are there any other options?

12.1 If funding is withheld, the scheme may not attract the funding required to deliver the project.

Assistant Director Finance

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

None

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