



Report for councillors: **Approval to apply for reallocation of CIM budget.**

Issued to: **Town council meeting 01/03/21**

Purpose of Report

To seek approval to request that the CIM board permits the reallocation of the grant funds earmarked for work on the seafront shelters to be spent on other approved projects within the Burnham Evolution brief.

Background

The Burnham Evolution Business Plan was written in 2018 to apply for £1.5m grant funding.

<https://burnham-highbridge-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Final-Burnham-Evolution-Business-Plan-19-06-18.pdf>

<https://burnham-highbridge-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Final-Burnham-Evolution-Business-Plan-appendices-19-06-18.pdf>

The larger application made to the Coastal Communities Fund was not successful, but the project was granted £350k from the Community Impact Mitigation Fund, meaning the project was subsequently downsized to undertake enhancements to the Princess Theatre & the Burnham seafront area.

The Community Impact Mitigation Fund was awarded in late 2019 with strict allocation of budgets to a list of projects (please note that the purpose of this list is to detail CIM funding & does not include other match funding streams):



Project	Budget	
Floor games, trim trail & play area	£65,000	
Replace existing signposts	£8,000	
Seafront sea walk signs	£1,200	
Quarter mile distance markers	£1,800	
Replace lighting	£17,000	TC funding
Refurbish/replace benches	£10,000	
Refurbish/replace bins	£4,500	
Hinkley Point C sign	£600	
Princess Theatre	£163,000	
Replace/refurbish shelters	£40,000	
Business Support		
Maintenance	£25,000	
Marketing	£900	
Project Coach infrastructure	£10,000	
Coordinator	£20,000	

Shelters

The legal agreement created by the CIM Board administrators requires that the total CIM fund is spent according to allocated budgets. £40k was allocated to undertaking work on the seafront shelters.

The original application was to demolish the block built South Esplanade shelters and replace them with elevated types in keeping with those on the North Esplanade. The final sum of money awarded is not enough to undertake these works.

During 2018 SDC undertook repair works to all shelters, meaning that other than cleaning (to be carried out under the maintenance budget), there is little opportunity to use the £40k on the shelters.

Of the £40,000 CIM funding allocated, £4,192 has been committed to the shelter adjacent to the play area, leaving a balance of £35,808.00

Reallocation of funds

The seafront sub-committee has considered the original business plan and the current funded projects. It recognises that many of the budgets applied for in 2018 were estimates and, whilst there is a surplus amount of money allocated to shelters, other projects that can proceed face a shortfall in funds.

The sub-committee, with the approval of the chairman of the Town Improvements Committee and the chairman of the town council, is making a direct recommendation to the full council that if an application is made to the CIM board to reallocate the remaining shelter funds to projects as proposed below:

BE approved project	Description	Estimated share of £35808
The coach project	requires a dedicated drop-off area with a coach driver's building (complete with power supply & heating)	£15,100
Seawall art project	(Esplanade footpath side) art at a professional standard that lasts.	£10,000
Decorative seafront lighting	Lighting strung between existing lamppost (including a provisional sum for any power supplies needed).	£10,708

Financial implications

None that affect the precept.

Failure to get permission to reallocate the funds will mean the CIM grant is reduced by the corresponding value.

If the TC is able to reallocate the funding, it will be almost certain that the budgets will overrun by a small sum (less than £500) in order to use the entire grant fund, any such shortfall can be covered by other appropriate budgets.

Policy implications

Corporate pillar 2: Culture and Community

The Town Council is committed to supporting a year-round programme of cultural events throughout Burnham and Highbridge, providing improved infrastructure where possible that will benefit the towns and its residents.

2.2 Seeking-out and securing external funding where possible to develop existing leisure and cultural amenities

Corporate pillar 3: Economic Development and Tourism

The Town Council is committed to taking an active role supporting and promoting sustainable development in the towns by engaging with residents, local stakeholder



groups and the local Planning Authority, making reference to the adopted Neighbourhood Plan and Sedgemoor District Council's Local Plan

3.4 Actively support and encourage local tourism e.g. Tourist Information office, Project Coach, etc.

Options/Recommendations

That approval is given to the town clerk to administer an application to the CIM Board for adjustment in agreed funding budgets.

Report author: *Sam Winter, Town Clerk*

Report Date: 22nd February 2021
