

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL
STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

**AGENDA
ITEM NO**

17 JANUARY 2019

9b

Environment Committee – 13 December 2018 – Agenda Item 9

Report Title	MARKET TOWNS CENTRES INITIATIVE FUND
Purpose of Report	To seek a recommendation to Strategy and Resources Committee of the allocation of the market towns initiative funds.
Decision(s)	The Committee RECOMMENDS to Strategy & Resources that the Market Towns Initiative Capital fund is allocated to individual town councils as identified at Appendix A.
Consultation and Feedback	Individual discussions have been held with representatives of the relevant town councils.
Financial Implications and Risk Assessment	<p>(As part of the Capital Budget Strategy, funding of £200k has been allocated over the next 3 years to support the Market Towns Initiative Fund (as set out in 3.1). This funding is subject to match funding from the host Town Council resulting in an overall project cost of £400k. It is recommended that SDC will monitor the projects in Appendix A in partnership with the relevant Town Councils.</p> <p>Adele Rudkin, Accountant Tel: 01453 754109 Email: adele.rudkin@stroud.gov.uk</p> <p>Risk Assessment: Monitoring of delivery will take place in order to mitigate the risk of non-delivery of projects or misuse of funds.</p>
Legal Implications	<p>It is for the committee to assess the benefits of the proposed funding allocations in light of the findings of the report at Appendix A. Subject to that, there are no legal implications arising from this report. R.2211D.2811C.2611</p> <p>Mike Wallbank Solicitor and Deputy Monitoring Officer Email: Mike.Wallbank@stroud.gov.uk</p>
Report Author	<p>Pippa Stroud, Policy Implementation Manager Tel: 01453 754099 Email: pippa.stroud@stroud.gov.uk</p>
Options	Capital funds could instead be returned to base budget in order to increase the funds available to the Council's MTFP.

Performance Management Follow Up	Monitoring will take place to ensure that the funding is taken up and spent in line with submitted proposals.
Background Papers/ Appendices	Appendix A: proposed Market Towns Initiative allocations. Future of Town Centres Report: https://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/640458/future-of-town-centres-final.pdf

1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In 2017 the Council undertook a retail review, which focussed on the main town centres within the District consisting of Stroud, Nailsworth, Stonehouse, Dursley and Wotton-under-Edge.
- 1.2 This review, The Future of Town Centres, was published in August 2017 and considers how these town centres could look and function in 2031. The review also considers the policy levers which may be available to the Council to modify negative effects or boost positive change.

2. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 2.1 As part of the review process, investigatory meetings were held with the town councils in order to gain an understanding of their view of the town and how future prospects could be influenced. 'SWOT' analyses (Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) of each town were undertaken as part of this exercise. The outputs of these analyses can be found in the appendix to the review.
- 2.2 In response, in 2018 the Council allocated a budget of £200,000 over the next three years to a Market Towns Initiative Fund to support capital projects within town centres. The funding is to be made available subject to match funding being made available from the host town council, resulting in an overall spend of £400,000.

3. CONCLUSION / RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Market Towns Initiative Fund makes the following funding available:

18/19	19/20	20/21	Total
£100,000	£50,000	£50,000	£200,000

- 4.0 Accordingly, meetings were held with representatives of the five town councils to discuss the funding and potential projects that this could support. As a result, indicative allocations for each year have been set out at Appendix A.

These indicative allocations have been made to reflect the likely deliverability of the schemes put forward within each relevant financial year. Given that some projects inevitably progress more slowly than

anticipated, while others can progress more quickly, these indicative allocations may need to be amended for 19/20 or 20/21. If this is the case, a further report will be brought before this committee.

- 4.1 Light touch monitoring of take-up and spending of these allocations will be undertaken in with partnership with the town councils.

Appendix A

Town	Project	Amount requested	18/19	19/20	20/21	Total
Dursley	Car park: acquisition and demolition of Newsquest Building	£40,00	£40,000	-	-	£40,000
Nailsworth	Market Street accessibility scheme, town centre improvements, civic centre relocation	£50,000	£5,000	£15,000	£15,000	£35,000
Stonehouse	Wharfdale Way, station signage, Oldends Community Hall.	£78,235	£6,400	£6,925	£30,000	£43,325
Stroud	Station masterplan, signage.	£50,000	£44,700	£5,300	-	£50,000
Wotton	Improvements to proposed car park, Old Town toilets rebuild.	£43,000	£3,900	£20,000	£5,000	£28,900
Total			£100,000	£47,225	£50,000	£197,225