



Report to: Policy and Resources Committee, 16th November 2021

Report of: Corporate Director – Finance and Resources

Subject: REFERRAL REPORT FROM PLACE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, 1ST NOVEMBER 2021 – SKILLS OFFICER, TOURISM AND EVENTS OFFICER, COMMONWEALTH GAMES AND QUEEN'S JUBILEE IN 2022

1. Recommendation

- 1.1 That the Committee agree to fund the post of Skills Officer from 1 April 2022 from reserves for 2022-23;**
- 1.2 That the Committee agree to fund the post of Tourism and Events Officer from 1 April 2022 from reserves for 2022-23; and**
- 1.3 That the Committee agree an allocation of £40,000 from reserves for 2022-23 as an enabling budget to support proposed activities to celebrate the Commonwealth Games and the Queen's Jubilee in 2022.**

2. Allocation of Funding for Skills Officer and Tourism and Events Officer

- 2.1 At the March 2021 meeting, this Committee considered a recommendation from the Place and Economic Development Sub-Committee and agreed the allocation of £100,000 Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) funding for the Skills Officer and Tourism and Events Officer posts to provide support to local businesses during the Covid-19 recovery period.
- 2.2 At its meeting on 1st November 2021, the Place and Economic Development Committee considered a report on proposals to fund the Skills Officer post from reserves for one year from 1st April 2022, pending the appointment of the new Head of Service for Economic Development and the review of the current Employment and Skills Strategy.
- 2.3 The Committee also considered a report on proposals to fund the Tourism and Events Officer post from reserves for one year from 1st April 2022, pending the appointment of the new Head of Service for Economic Development, the review of the Tourism Strategy and the development of the forthcoming Cultural Strategy.
- 2.4 Both reports were supported with a recommendation to the Policy and Resources Committee to approve the funding proposals.

3. Commonwealth Games and the Queen's Jubilee in 2022

- 3.1 At its meeting on 1st November 2021, the Place and Economic Development Committee also considered a report on proposed activities to help generate benefits

from Worcester's proximity to the 2022 Commonwealth Games, which are due to take place in Birmingham between 28 July and 8 August. To support and enhance the activity and to deliver the programme of events there is a need for an enabling budget. Advance scoping work has indicated that a budget of up to £30,000 would be necessary.

- 3.2 The Committee also considered proposals for activities to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. £10,000 funding is requested to support and enhance the activities, including entertainment at the beacon lighting, funding for trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy, and promotion of events.
- 3.3 The Committee agreed to support these proposals, with a recommendation that the Policy and Resources Committee approve the funding allocations.

4. Information

- 4.1 The full Committee reports for each of the above items are attached (**Appendix 1**).

Ward(s): All
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Background Papers: None