

P & F Committee – 9th March 2021 – Finance Report

Agenda Item 13) Finance Officer's Report

ERDF Claim

The 2nd funding phase claim deadline has been extended and a further opportunity for the council to implement further safety measures following the current lockdown.

Local Restrictions Support Grant

STC were eligible to apply for Local Restrictions Support Grant which is split into two different sections, 1st section is for the reimbursement of business rates due to not being unable to open the Guildhall to the public during lockdowns in November & January, STC received £5,000. 2nd portion is a grant for loss of income at the Guildhall STC received £6,000. We should receive further business rates support until lockdown restrictions are lifted for reopening of the Guildhall.

Virement

Services Budgets

1. To cover agency Fees: January – March 21. The following virements which were agreed at the last P&F meeting are no longer required due to the Temp staff being reduced from 3 to 2.

£800 from the Library Staffing Budget Surplus
£1365 from Service Delivery Staffing Budget
£643 for P&F Staffing Budget.

2. Guildhall Caretaking Budget (Shortfall of £268)
No longer required due to overestimation.

Agenda Item 14) To Approve three-year appointment of the Internal Auditor

An internal audit proposal received from the current auditor (Hudson Accounting Limited) Internal Audit services for 2021/22 – 2023-24 (3 Years). The cost is at £1,200 which has increased from £800 per annum. This increase is to reflect the increase in precept and volume of transactions.

I have carried out research on alternative local council internal auditors in the area and there don't seem to be any alternatives for this sector. CALC also have carried out research and have been unable to provide any other alternatives. It is a very niche area for auditing and there are not many auditors who are experienced to be able to undertake the work. Cornwall Council with CALC are currently putting an offer together for an internal audit service.

I recommend for the council to accept this proposal as we have always received excellent service and recommendations for the council and he is appropriately qualified and experienced for the sector.