



Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance and Strategy

Cabinet - 18 May 2023

Financial Procedural Rule 5 Additional Revenue Provision for Residual Economic Recovery Fund 2023/24

Purpose:	To approve schemes associated with residual Economic Recovery Fund (ERF) to be undertaken in 23/24 financial year in compliance with Financial Procedure Rule No.5
Policy Framework:	Council Constitution - Financial Procedure Rule 5
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that Cabinet: 1) Notes that the schemes listed within Appendix A will continue to ensure the primary purpose is satisfied. 2) Approves the allocation for schemes listed within Appendix B and sections 2.1 and 2.2 set out below, together with the appropriate financial implications as set out in the report. 3) Delegates the development of the scheme detail to the Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance and Strategy, Chief Executive, and Director of Finance within the overall financial envelope set out in this report.
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1. Background

- 1.1 Cabinet at its meeting on the 21st July 2022 confirmed the suspension of the economic recovery fund applications. As a result the residual budget has been considered and largely utilised to offset the corporate pressure

of increased energy costs (for Council and strategic partners) originally estimated of up to £15,000,000 for the 23/24 financial year which relies on a combination of funding from residual ERF and the budgeted central inflation and apprenticeship levy provision (a separate total of £6,330,000).

- 1.2 The residual balance on the ERF equated to a total of £17,241,201 of which £4,550,000 is subject to a separate FPR7 report.
- 1.3 Also on this same Cabinet agenda is consideration of exceptional energy support for strategic partners.
- 1.4 If these items were all to be approved, and after retaining a prudent sum for emerging future inflation pressures in the remainder of 2023-24, the S151 Officer estimates that there will be a residual £4,530,000 available to release now as a final one off sum for new priorities. Whilst this does not represent a continuation of the ERF fund (i.e. there will not be consideration of further or previously unsuccessful applications) this report sets out the intentions for this funding and to formally add in to the 23/24 Council revenue budget spending plans fully funded from residual retained reserves and central provisions.

2. Approved schemes to be funded from residual balance of ERF 23/24

2.1 Economic Recovery Fund 23/24 (ERF)

- 2.1.1 Approval is given for schemes as outlined within **Appendix A**, to ensure the primary purpose of each scheme is satisfied.

2.2 Additional Priorities

Committed Investment £4,530,000, whereby £500,000 will be added to the ongoing playground investment programme as outlined within item 2.2.4.

Appendix B

2.2.1 Free Buses

Proposed Investment £600,000

Purpose

Following the successful take up of the pilot offered during the periods 2021-23, this offer will include free travel during the main school holidays (excluding half term periods).

2.2.2 Local Bus Support

Proposed Investment £400,000

Purpose

To fund local bus travel.

2.2.3 Levelling up

Proposed Investment £1,000,000

Purpose

To target and support areas of multiple deprivation.

2.2.4 Additional Play areas

Proposed Investment £500,000

Purpose

Further investment is secured to provide match funding targeting gaps in provisions, where there are no playgrounds available.

The additional funding will be amalgamated to the ongoing playground investment programme 23/25.

2.2.5 Nature Trails

Proposed Investment £100,000

Purpose

To provide nature and learning trails within targeted sites where there is no playground provision.

Provision of nature trails as part of the Wild About your Ward initiative, delivered by Swansea Council's Natural Environment section.

Nature trails form a key component of the political commitment to greening communities, providing not only recreational and environmental benefits, but also public health, revitalisation and Active Travel opportunities, as well as being the focus of community pride and identity.

2.2.6 Security equipment special events

Proposed Investment £100,000

Purpose

To support local and special events within Swansea, satisfy legislative requirements as proposed.

Without the support, such events may not be viable.

2.2.7 CCTV Cameras

Proposed Investment £50,000

Purpose

To purchase new equipment as part of measures to reduce antisocial behaviour within communities.

2.2.8 More Bins

Proposed Investment £50,000

Purpose

The purchase of additional litter bins to continue with the replacement programme for life-expired litter and dog bins

2.2.9 Bus Shelters

Proposed Investment £100,000

Purpose

To enable continued improvement of bus shelter provision

2.2.10 Disabled Parking Bays

Proposed Investment £75,000

Purpose

Deliver in accordance with policy, to also reduce backlog requests.

2.2.11 Dropped kerbs

Proposed Investment £60,000

Purpose

To enable further dropped kerbs within targeting high circulated areas (excludes private requests)

2.2.12 Patch team

Proposed Investment £450,000

Purpose

Following the successful pilot, the investment will allow the Priority Action for Community Highways Scheme (PATCH) to continue during 2023/24, targeting prioritised minor highway repairs

2.2.13 Youth Engagement

Proposed Investment £100,000

Purpose

To support members and youth to improve and develop teen spaces subject to further consultation to consider shelters incorporating photovoltaics (PV) to enable mobile charging etc”

2.2.14 Enhanced drainage cleaning

Proposed Investment £350,000

Purpose

Continuation of additional drainage teams and equipment to reduce chances of flooding issues within communities.

2.2.15 Coronation road closures

Proposed Investment £20,000

Purpose

To fund concessions for street closures to enable street parties and celebrations during the weekend 6th May 2023.

2.2.16 Covid Memorial

Proposed Investment £75,000

Purpose

Subject to consultation to fund a feasibility, design and installation of a suitable Covid Memorial to recognise those who lost their lives or suffered as a result of Covid-19, whilst celebrating the efforts shown by the key workers.

2.2.17 Additional Car Parking Offers

Proposed Investment £500,000

Purpose

To extend a range of offers within the city centre car parking charges, targeting workers, visitors and residents of Swansea.

3. Integrated Assessment Implications

3.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

3.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals.

3.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also considers other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

3.2 An IIA Screening Form (**Appendix C**) has been completed with the agreed outcome that a full IIA report is not required due to the following:
It is envisaged that the proposed schemes will have a medium to high positive impact. These schemes have either been derived from a pilot scheme or considered as a targeted measure.

Schemes identified within the report will be subject to the IIA process with consideration given to a site specific IIA screening review to determine if a full IIA is required.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 As stated in the report the ability to add items to the 23/24 budget is due to the residual ERF and estimated unallocated balances on the central inflation provision as the energy spend will be lower than the assumed up to £15 million and consequently there is a further use of reserves available to Cabinet in year . It is expected that on the assumption that the schemes

listed fully commit the available reprice then the economic recovery fund will naturally end during the course of the year. Any requirements for ongoing support for any items listed or previously approved via ERF will then need to be dealt with as part of the normal budget setting process.

- 4.2 Whilst the report provides an outline of each element further detail will need to be developed and signed off of each item in line with the delegation listed.
- 4.3 If any schemes listed require transfer to capital the appropriate requirements of FPR7 will need to be followed
- 4.4 The availability of the funding listed is predicated on the budget as set with no further assumptions made for new unfunded funding pressures. A prudent residual sum has been retained centrally but in the event that any manifest themselves during the course of the year in excess of the retained sum then any “unspent” reserves may need to be drawn back to offset wider corporate pressures.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1. There are no legal implications arising from this report.
- 5.2 Schemes included within **Appendix A** will be subject to terms and conditions as outlined within the grant offer letters.

Background Papers:

Report of the Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy
Cabinet 21st July 2022

Economic Recovery Fund (ERF) Performance Review 2021 - 22
<https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/documents/g10729/Printed%20minutes%20Thursday%202021-Jul-2022%2010.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=1&LLL=0>

Appendices:

- Appendix A Financial Implications (Inc Carried Forward Requests)
- Appendix B Financial Implications Additional Priorities
- Appendix C IIA Screening Form