

TITLE OF REPORT:	Proposed Virement of Funds and Movement to Earmarked Reserves			
PROPOSER:	Diane Barlow			
SUPPORTED BY:(if applicable)	Trudi Barrett			
BACKGROUND: Please describe the reasons for this paper. Is it on behalf of a Working Group? Please provide relevant details, e.g., previous decisions by the Town Council or any external advice. Who is likely to benefit from this decision?	<p>There is one budget in the 22/23 financial year which is overspent by a significant amount. This budget is Street Lighting Power with an estimated overspend of £7,778.00. However, there are also several budgets with large underspends. Virements can be agreed to transfer funds from one budget heading to another to cover overspends. There are suggested virements listed below which would compensate for the overspend on Street Lighting Power.</p> <p>In addition, consideration should be given to transferring some unspent funds to earmarked reserves at the end of the current financial year, for future projects.</p>			
ISSUES: Summarise the key issues arising from the Background (above). Are there any key dates that are relevant?	<p>Virements increase the funds available within the overspent budget headings, compensating for the overspends in these areas. Also, as the council has plans to refurbish the Guildhall and enhance other properties within its portfolio, it would be helpful to have further additional earmarked resources to facilitate this.</p>			
LEGAL OBLIGATIONS: Wherever possible please check on any likely legal implications.	<p>Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities 2022, advises that the level of General Reserves held by a council should be maintained at 3-12 months of net revenue expenditure. At the end of the 2021/22 financial year, the council had a general reserve figure of £75,298.00, which is slightly less than the recommended minimum. This level of reserve is set to be maintained at the end of the current financial year. The Council needs to manage its expenditure carefully during the 2023/24 financial year so that the minimum level of General Reserves is improved upon.</p> <p>In addition, Governance and Accountability also recommends an annual review of the appropriateness of existing earmarked reserves. I have therefore, attached the Council's current earmarked reserves position for review (see attached).</p>			
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: <i>Please state the costs if known-capital costs as well as on-going revenue costs. State whether funding will be from external sources or from the Town Council.</i>	<p>Virement Recommendations: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 High Street- (4405/304) £6,400 to Street Lighting Power (4524/201) • 10 High Street – (4401/304) £1,378 to Street Lighting Power (4524/201) • Total - £7,778 to Street Lighting Power. <p>Reserve Recommendations: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants to Community Groups (4024/107) - £350 to Grants to Community Groups Reserve. • Total of £350 to Grants to Community Groups. • King Street Public Toilets/Repairs and Maintenance (4406/111) - £1,000 to Property Reserve. • St Mary's Lane Public Toilets/repairs and Maintenance (4406/112) - £500 to Property Reserve. • Burgage Way/Repairs and Maintenance (4406/305) - £578 to Property Reserve. • Bus Shelters/Repairs and Maintenance (4406/313) - £750 to Property Reserve • Total of £2,828 to Property Reserve • Climate Change (4099/201) £789 to Climate Change Reserve. • Total of £789 to Climate Change Reserve. • Linden Lodge/Repair and Maintenance (4406/321) - £1,691 to Linden Lodge Property Reserve. • Total of £1,691 to Linden Lodge Property Reserve. <p>Please note that the above figures may vary slightly if additional activity occurs before the end of the current financial year.</p>			
COMMUNITY BENEFIT <i>Please state what benefit this proposal will bring to the community</i>	Allocating appropriate earmarked reserves towards future projects and virements to balance appropriate budget headings helps to ease the pressure on future budgets and reduces the impact of precept increases for the taxpayer.			
COMMUNICATIONS:	Rialtas would need to be advised as part of their year-end closedown activities.			
MEDIA AND PROMOTIONS:	<i>Does this need media coverage?</i>	YES	NO	xx
TOWN CLERK'S COMMENTS:	As above.			
PROPOSAL:	Please consider whether you would like to agree to the suggestions above. Please also review the Council's current earmarked reserve position to review their appropriateness.			