

AGENDA 11b, Enc xv) Allocation of Budget Surplus Due to Staff Reduction

Background

The initial operating budget request for 6 staff members and associated machinery and oncosts was not supported (£258,110) and the contribution towards the Partnership Agreement for 24/25 was capped at £238k. As a result, the Partnership resource input was reduced to 5 full-time operatives. Following budget calculations by NCC, the operating budget with 5 operatives and associated oncosts shows a small budgetary surplus.

Northumberland County Council (NCC) propose utilising this surplus to fund a seasonal worker. Alternatively, the surplus could be returned to the Town Council or reallocated elsewhere within the operating budget.

Discussion Points

- Review the projected surplus amount from the staff reduction.
- Evaluate the benefits and drawbacks of NCC's proposal to hire a seasonal worker.
- Discuss the potential responsibilities and obligations of the proposed seasonal worker position.
- Discuss alternative options for surplus allocation, such as returning funds to the Town Council or reallocating to areas of improvement.

Proposed Resolution

To decide on one of the following options for the budget surplus:

Option 1: Approve NCC's proposal to utilise the surplus of £12-13k to fund a seasonal worker position and seek the Council's agreement.

Option 2: Return the surplus of £12-13k for use by the Town Council.

Option 3: Reallocate the surplus of £12-13 towards identified priorities to be undertaken by NCC Partnership Team.

The Partnership Meeting held on 18th June, AGREED TO RECOMMEND that the Council support proposal 1 – to utilise the surplus towards the recruitment of a seasonal worker.