

Committee: FULL COUNCIL

Date: 23 January 2024

Title: Library Grant

Purpose of Report

For Members to consider a request from Somerset Council for a £5,000 contribution towards the cost of Ilminster library for 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

Recommendation:

Members resolve to agree to a grant of **£5,000** contribution towards the Ilminster Library for 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

Report:

1. Officers have received a request from Somerset Council for a **£5,000** donation towards the running of Ilminster library **Appendix 17A**.

2. Ilminster Town Council's Financial Regulation Section 3.1 states:

Expenditure on revenue items may be authorised up to the amounts included for that class of expenditure in the approved budget. This authority is to be determined by:

- *the Council for all items over £5,000;*
- *a duly delegated committee of the Council for items over £1,000; or*
- *the Clerk for any items below £1,000.*

3. It is good practice for local authorities to agree payment of invoices within two weeks of receipt. However, on this occasion, Somerset Council has been informed that there will be a delay with a response to their request as it would need to be brought before Full Council for a resolution.

4. At a meeting of the Resources Committee held on Tuesday 12th February 2019, Minute R225 Financial Contribution for Ilminster Library:

*Consideration was given to the contribution level to be made to Somerset County Council towards the costs of running Ilminster library, as provided for in the Town Council's 2019/20 budget. Issues discussed during consideration of this Agenda Item included: the County Council are looking for a 3 year funding commitment. **RESOLVED** To make a £5,000 contribution towards the running costs of Ilminster library for 2019/20 and to commit to making a similar contribution to the amount given in (i) above for the next 2 years that a letter be sent to Friends of Ilminster Library giving details of the Town Council's grants policy*

5. At the Town Council meeting held on 15th November 2022 Minute 2022-0162-TC Library Grant

*Members **RESOLVED** by 14 votes for and 1 abstention to agree to the request for a £5,000 contribution towards the Ilminster Library for 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.*

6. Members have a grant budget of **£10,000** of which **£2,010** has been allocated so far this financial year in grants to Ilminster Carnival Committee, Ilminster Youth Football Club, Ilminster Ukulele Club, Horton Cross Nursing Home, and the Quakers.
7. There is **£7,990** remaining in the budget. Any unallocated funds will be returned at the end of the financial year to General Reserves. This figure does not take into account any grants that have been awarded at this meeting.
8. Members may wish to agree to the request for **£5,000** contribution towards the Ilminster Library for 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 or they may consider a longer term funding commitment.

Vicky Freeman
Administration Office
January 2024