

Western Area Committee Meeting	
Meeting Date	1 September 2022
Report Title	Return and reallocation of previous funding - reference WAC004
EMT Lead	David Clifford, Head of Policy, Governance & Customer Service
Lead Officer	Janet Dart, Policy & Engagement Officer
Classification	Open
Recommendations	To agree to reverse the allocation for bid reference WAC004 allocated in 2020/21 and add the amount to this year's allocation.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

This report outlines the reasons why allocation reference WAC004 cannot be spent and asks members to agree to reverse the allocation and add the amount to this year's allocation.

2 Background

- 2.1 In the financial year 2020/21, Western Area Committee allocated £1,200.00 in funding to pay for three brown tourism signs to be installed in the Parish of Bobbing in the following locations:
- Bobbing Church – a Grade 1 Listed Building;
 - The Henge, Sonora Fields; and
 - The Grove – Rose Hill House area.
- 2.2 This proposal, put forward by Bobbing Parish Council, was in line with the Visitor Economy Framework Action Plan which included a medium-term action to undertake a wayfinding audit of signage and identify any gaps.
- 2.3 The Destination & Place Manager was tasked to submit the three applications to Kent County Council. The strongest of the three applications was submitted initially and Visit Kent undertook the criteria checks for compliance with the national signing criteria and consulted Kent Highways the statutory body. They advised it fell well short of the criteria and further not to pursue the remaining applications as although the locations were strong community assets, they were not destination assets for visitors.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 Officers propose that the Western Area Committee accept the advice from Kent County Council and reverse the allocation of £1,200.00 (WAC004).
- 3.2 Officers propose that the returned funding be added to the funding allocation for Western Area Committee for 2022/23 increasing the amount of funding available to allocate from £34,000.00 to a total of £35,200.00. The Director of Resources has agreed this approach and as the Constitution is silent on this point, the Head of Policy, Governance & Customer Service has confirmed this course of action is procedurally permissible.

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 Western Area Committee Members could agree to pursue the applications to install the three brown tourism signs, however, if Kent County Council do not approve the applications by May 2023, the funding will be forfeited in line with the Constitution: “*Any funding allocation agreed by the committee but unspent by the end of each electoral cycle (i.e. by May 2023) will be forfeited*”.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 No consultation has been undertaken. However, Western Area Committee Members will be consulted at the September 2022 meeting when a final proposal will be considered and voted on.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	No specific implications identified at this stage.
Financial, Resource and Property	The financial implications are as outlined in the report.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	No specific implications identified at this stage.
Crime and Disorder	No specific implications identified at this stage.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	No specific implications identified at this stage.
Health and Wellbeing	No specific implications identified at this stage.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	No specific implications identified at this stage.

Risk Management and Health and Safety	No specific implications identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	No specific implications identified at this stage.
Privacy and Data Protection	No specific implications identified at this stage.

7 Appendices

7.1 There are no appendices.

8 Background Papers

8.1 There are no background papers.