

## Policy & Resources Committee

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<b>Date:</b>	<b>12 November 2019</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Thame Players Grant Funding</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Cassie Pinnells, Community Services Manager</b>

### Purpose of Report

1. To consider a request from Thame Players Theatre to redirect awarded grant funding that is no longer required for its original intended purpose.

### Background

2. Through the Thame Town Council Grant scheme held in May 2019 Thame Players requested, in association with the Red Kite Family Centre, a grant of £820 towards purchase of a projector and related equipment to set up a Saturday Children's Cinema Programme. The requested grant represented 50% of the total estimated project cost of £ 1,644.
3. At the time of the Grants Award Panel meeting in June 2019 Thame Players were in discussion with Thame Cinema for All regarding possible use of their projection equipment as an alternative option but it was not known whether agreement would be forthcoming.
4. The application received unanimous support from the Grants Panel but with the request that the equipment also be made available for other community groups' use or to enable the project to expand for film showings for teenagers, families or retirees in the week.
5. The application was recommended for approval and duly ratified by Full Council.
6. At the beginning of September Thame Players informed the Community Services Manager that Thame Cinema for All had given permission for their projector to be used for the Red Kite/Thame Players Children's Cinema Project.
7. As a result the £820 grant award is now not needed for the original project and Thame Players have requested permission to reallocate the unspent grant award to upgrade the sound system at the theatre. This would represent 72% of the £ 1,142 project cost.
8. The request has highlighted the fact that the Grant Award Policy does not contain any clear guidelines for determining a request to reallocate grant monies to alternative projects.

### Risk Assessment

9. Determination of the Thame Players request would establish a precedent.
10. The alternative project has not been subjected to the normal Grant Application assessment and judging process.

**Legal Powers:** Local Government Act 1972, s145

**Recommendation:**

- a) **To consider the question regarding grant monies no longer required for their specified purpose, and to update the Grants Policy accordingly.**
- b) **To resolve the request from Thame Players in a manner consistent with that policy.**