

## Policy & Resources Committee

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<b>Date:</b>	<b>18 February 2020</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Thame History Festival</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Cassie Pinnells, Community Services Manager</b>

### Purpose of the Report

1. To consider and approve a seed funding request of £1000 and free use of the Upper Chamber to hold the first Thame History Festival event scheduled to take place at the Town Hall on Sunday 7 June 2020.

### Background

2. The Thame History Festival will be the first of what is hoped to become an annual event for the town to increase local engagement with the history and its surviving heritage. It is anticipated that the event will encourage local residents and residents from the surrounding area, to take part benefiting the local economy and enriching local culture.
3. The Festival Organisers have secured participation of several local and regional organisations, including Haddenham Museum, the John Hamden Society, Lord Williams's School, the Oxfordshire Local History Association, South Oxfordshire Archaeology Group, the Wheatley Archive and the Oxfordshire History Centre Library. The Upper Chamber will be transformed into interactive, hands-on activities for children and adults. Including quizzes and a large map of the town where local visitors can pinpoint the location and age of their homes.

Following a survey undertaken at the library a strong interest was expressed in local buildings. To compliment the Upper Chamber activities, a number of free tours of the High Street highlighting some of the town's historic buildings will also take place during the Festival.

4. The event will be part of a wider Heritage Festival, which features a ticketed evening concert at St Mary's Church on the Saturday evening of the 6 June 2020 by Oxford Waits, a renowned and very popular historic costume band whose performance will link in with the local themes.

### Resource Appraisal

5. As this is the first Thame History Festival the estimated project costs are £2000. Income from the Waits Concert is estimated to be £1000. A financial request of £1000 for operational requirements such as publicity, feather flags and to purchase activity equipment. It is hoped that the Town Council would offer free use of the Upper Chamber for the event to assist with hiring charges for the first year. There is an unallocated balance in the 2019/20 general grants budget that could be allocated to the event.

**Legal Powers:** Local Government Act 1972, section 144 (Tourism)  
 Local Government Act 1972, section 145  
 (Provision of entertainment and support of the arts)

### Recommendation:

- i) That financial support of £1000 be released from the Grants 2019/20 Budget and free use of the Town Hall be approved for the Thame History Festival 2020.***