

Full Council

Title:	Grant Awards
Date:	22 June 2021
Purpose of the Report:	To agree the recommendations from the Grant Awards Panel
Contact Officer:	Cassie Pinnells, Acting Town Clerk

Background

1. The aim of the Grant Scheme is to promote a vibrant and active community in Thame, enhancing and maximising the range of services and activities in the town. Funds are therefore usually allocated to those projects that demonstrate an additional benefit to the users or the development of a service. Grants are not normally awarded for the everyday running costs or salaries of an organisation.
2. The following evaluation criteria was used to assess each application:
 - a. Is the organisation in Thame or serves a significant proportion of residents within the parish?
 - b. What benefit does it provide to the town and its inhabitants?
 - c. Would there be a significant adverse effect if the applicant were unable to continue or hampered by lack of funds?
 - d. Have other sources of funding been secured or being sought for the project.
 - e. Is there a more appropriate source of funding the organisation should be directed to thus relieving the demand on the Council's resources?
 - f. Is the application for capital or revenue costs?
 - g. If revenue has the organisation received similar funding in the previous few years?
 - h. Funding priority will be assessed in the following order: -
 1. Capital Projects
 2. Community Projects Seed Funding for the first year.
 3. Revenue support – Salaries/staff costs will not be funded.

Resource Appraisal

3. The Grant Awards Panel received 20 grant applications, 19 were reviewed and 1 application withdrawn as activities take place outside the Parish. The unused £8,100 2020-21 grant budget held in earmarked reserves has been made available to the working group with their recommendations attached as Appendix 1, these equated to:

	2021-22 Budget	Requested	Recommended
Capital Funding	£10,500	£17,392	£ 9,350
Community Projects Funding	+ £8,100	£10,105	£ 5,308
Revenue support		£ 3,284	£ 500
Citizens Advice Allocated Funding	£4,000		
Lighthouse Allocated Funding	£1,500		
Total		£ 30,781	£ 15,158

Free use of facilities such as the Town Hall Upper Chamber, meeting room and outside areas are listed as a financial account of the groups, organisations or partners who benefited from the Town Council in kind. The Town Clerk has been granted de minimus authority to approve free use requests which are reported to P&R as and when agreed, so this additional discretion is no longer separately required.

Risk Assessment

4. The ability to award a grant is identified by the appropriate legal power when an award is granted preventing the Council acting Ultra Vires. The organisation applying for funding must submit a copy of its audited accounts and constitution. All applications are assessed and reviewed by Officers before being presented to Members.

Legal Powers:

Appendix 1 identifies the power by which a grant can be awarded.

Recommendation that:

- i) The grant awards as recommended by the Grant Awards Panel be agreed in accordance with the powers identified in Appendix 1.*