

## Full Council

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<b>Title:</b>	<b>Grant Awards</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>13 June 2023</b>
<b>Purpose of the Report:</b>	<b>To agree the recommendations from the Grant Awards Panel</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Cassie Pinnells, Community Services Manager</b>

### 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 The Grant Awards Panel received 15 grant applications, 14 were reviewed and 1 application withdrawn due to receiving two applications from the same organisation. The £7,369 held in the Grants earmarked reserves has been made available to the panel along with the £10,500 budget and the Citizen's Advice budget of £4,000 to aid with their recommendations attached as Appendix 1, these equated to:

	<b>2023-24 Budget</b>	<b>Requested</b>	<b>Recommended</b>
Capital Funding	£10,500	£13,752	£ <b>6,054</b>
Community Seed Funding	+ £7,369	£ 2,100	£ 0
Revenue support		£ 9,272	£ <b>4,000</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>£ 25,124</b>	<b>£ 10,054</b>
Citizens Advice Allocated Funding	£4,000		<b>£4,000</b>

4. The Grant Panel received an email request from Citizens Advice, who recognise that Thame Town Council are supportive of their service, asked if their annual grant of £4,000 could be reviewed following the presentation made at the February 2023, Policy & Resources Committee. The £4,000 amount has remained the same since 2014. Their organisation is seeing a greater demand on their services and increased associated costs. It costs around £48,000 to stay in the town, with District Council funding 30% of running costs.

The Grant Award Panel noted that Citizen Advice had made an informal request for extra funding this year. As they did not submit a formal grant application, and as such Citizen Advice funding is administered differently, it was felt that this was not within the remit of the Grant Award Panel. Full Council may wish to consider this request separately and may also choose to review the Citizen Advice annual funding provision when setting next year's budget.

5. 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**

6. 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.*
- ii) To consider the request from Citizens Advice request for a possible additional award from the £7,369 Grants Ear Marked reserves for 2023-24.*