



REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No:- FC23/022

Committee:-	Finance and Governance Committee
Date:-	19 th July 2023
Author:-	Martin Hammond, Clerk
Report Title:-	Grants to Voluntary Sector Organisations
Wards Affected:-	All

1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval to the terms on which applications for voluntary sector grants will be invited.

2. Recommendations

That consideration is given to whether or not to confine the grants scheme to one or more of the themes listed in 3.4 below.

3. Information

- 3.1. There is £20,000 in the budget for voluntary sector grants for 2023-4 year. The window for applications to be submitted was delayed because of other work pressures most notably the need to move offices.
- 3.2. It is proposed that the application window be fixed as running from 1st August to 25th September (allowing more time as it is holiday season) and that applications be brought to this committee on 18th October for determination. This means that most of the outcomes from the grants made will not be realised until well into 2024.
- 3.3. In 2022, there was little stipulation as to what grants might pay for – applications were asked to have regard to the Council's policy, which is attached for reference. As a result, the applications received spanned quite a wide range and were difficult to compare. The opportunity exists therefore to be more pro-active and to take on more of a commissioning role this year – to invite applications along particular themes.
- 3.4. Potential themes could be

- Measures which help address the cost of living pressures on local residents
- Measures which improve bio-diversity or the wider physical environment
- Measures which improve mental health and the wellbeing particularly of young people
- Measures which improve the capacity and reach of the voluntary sector

4. Consultation and Engagement

The recent Town meetings have highlighted issues of mental health, cost of living pressures, the well being of young people and sustainability.

5. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications

The policy is that grants are available between £500 and £5000. For grants of £1000 or more, a service level agreement with agreed outcomes are entered into with the recipient organisation.

6. Climate change implications

The grants policy can have a positive impact on climate change interventions

7. Policy Implications

The Council's policy objectives are

The Council will adhere to the following objectives and standards in how it works as an organisation and together with others.

Economy

1. The Council will support growth and the continuing economic welfare of the town, provided this growth is as sustainable as it can be.
2. The Council will support the town centre – through encouraging and delivering facilities, through putting on events and markets, and will help to make the town centre safe, attractive, interesting and varied, with local businesses thriving alongside national retailers and service providers.

Health and Community

3. The Council will support measures to improve physical and mental health wellbeing, particularly in the light of the impacts of covid 19, through its own services and in partnership with others.
4. The Council will support measures to improve public safety, road safety, and the safety of the night time economy in Kettering.

5. The Council has signed the Armed Forces Covenant and will apply it wherever possible; it will support veterans and mark the work of the country's armed forces, for example on Remembrance Day.

Sustainability

6. The Council has approved motions declaring a climate emergency. It is exploring ways of encouraging and supporting sustainable habits and opportunities for local people.
7. The Council will continue to expect high sustainable standards, improved energy and water use and insulation standards when responding to planning application consultations; it will oppose applications which unsustainably reduce or do not replace natural habitat or damage water courses, or which do not seek to optimise the use of public transport, walking and cycling as means of travel.
8. The Council will, within its own remit, strive to protect, restore and enhance our local biodiversity and the natural world that surrounds us and of which we are all a part and will strive to take the most sustainable approach to the design and delivery of its own services
9. The Council will support the development of walking and cycling infrastructure and the growth of public transport.

Organisational Effectiveness

10. The Council will function as efficiently and effectively as it can, as a steward of the public money with which it is entrusted.
11. The Council will be an active partner to other statutory, voluntary and commercial organisations working for the benefit of Kettering and its residents; it will engage with local organisations to meet local challenges, to improve the welfare of its citizens and promote their interests
12. The Council will set out to explain what it is seeking to do, and why, and will listen to what local people have to say to it about their needs and aspirations.
13. The Council and its members will show respect to each other, to partner organisations and will help and support local people within its means to do so. It will be a constructive partner.
14. It will operate a paperless office, including eliminating the use of single use plastic items.

Background Papers

None

