



REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No:- FC24/83

Committee:-	Finance and Governance Committee
Date:-	23 rd April 2025
Author:-	Martin Hammond, Clerk
Report Title:-	Grants Monitoring
Wards Affected:-	All

1. Purpose of Report

To report on the grants monitoring work undertaken throughout the last three years.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that members consider what action should be taken in respect of those organisations which have not or appear not to have made full use of their grant.

3. Information

- 3.1. The Council has had grant regimes in place since April 2022. These have included
- Grants to voluntary and community sector organisations
 - Environmental grants and Love Wildlife Grants
 - Community Resilience Grants
 - Lottery Grants
 - Core grants to named voluntary sector organisations
 - Plus one or two one off grant regimes such as Coronation Grants and
 - Ward Initiatives grants
- 3.2. During that time a total of £115,000 has been awarded to 131 projects, of varying size;-

Type	Amount	Projects
Voluntary and community sector	£50,000	23
Environment Grants	£11,000	6
Love Wildlife grants	£9,000	16
Ward Initiatives Grants	£22,000	70
Lottery Grants	£5,000	5
Community resilience	£12,800	8
Core grants	£5,000 in year 1 of 3	3

- 3.3. All grants over £500 attracted a service level agreement with the receiving organisation, which required them to acknowledge the grant in their publicity, to report on the completion of their project and provide monitoring information on the impact of the grant over time. It also provided for the repayment of grant where it had not been possible to make use of it. Approximately 68% of grants, by value, required an SLA, or 87% if Ward Initiatives Grants are excluded from the total.
- 3.4. Attached as Appendix A below is a schedule showing the grants made which attracted an SLA, plus the Love Wildlife Grants (most of which were for quite small sums) where a looser reporting regime was put in place. The schedule shows those projects which have been completed and the reporting requirements fully complied with, those – more recent – grants where the reporting periods have not been triggered and those grants where there is a gap in the information provided. The last section on the schedule lists the Love Wildlife grants and their current status.
- 3.5. There are a couple of projects which have been delayed but which are being managed and will be monitored.
- 3.6. However, it can be seen from this schedule that there are 5 organisations in the “incomplete” category, for the following reasons, where known

Organisation	Grant affected	Current known position
Friends of Rockingham Rd Park *	£800	The improvement to their website and a new notice board have not been delivered; there has been no successful contact with the Friends for some time.
First Responders *	£880	FR have never replied to any follow up requests for information
Shire Sounds *	£1500	SS have not replied to any request for information

Groundwork	£600	The project has been completed but the follow up impact information is overdue
Kettering Theatre Group *	£1000	Information of how the money was used has not been provided.

This adds up to £4,800, or 5% by value of the grants made with an SLA attached. For one of the projects above, the omission is largely of monitoring data – the actual project was delivered on time, so the principal concern is with the 4 organisations marked with an asterisk.

4. Consultation and Engagement

None necessary.

5. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications

The Council should aim to recover any grants which have not been used for the identified purpose.

6. Climate change implications

Many of the grants had a sustainability or environmental function.

7. Policy Implications

Grants are intended to further all of the Council's corporate objectives but primarily serve the following :-

1. The Council will support measures to improve physical and mental health wellbeing, through its own services and in partnership with others.
2. The Council will support measures to improve public safety, road safety, and the safety of the night time economy in Kettering.
3. The Council has approved motions declaring a climate emergency. It will continuously explore ways of encouraging and supporting sustainable habits and opportunities for local people.
4. 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

In addition, the Council's policy is to

- o function as efficiently and effectively as it can, as a steward of the public money with which it is entrusted.
- o be an active and constructive 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

Background Papers

Grant monitoring data, grant agreements and SLAs.