

Kidderminster Town Council

Wednesday 20th July 2016

Grants Policy - Overview

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek agreement to:-
- i. Adopt a grants policy for the Town Council
 - ii. Agree a process to decide grants requests

2. Background

2.1 This policy and expenditure is separate from the Kidderminster Educational Foundation which is a distinct trust on its own

2.2 Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives a Council the power to “incur expenditure which in their opinion is in the interests of and will bring direct benefit to their area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants.....”

Section 137 was amended by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 s 36 so that any expenditure must be commensurate with the benefit to the community.

3. Financial Position

- 3.1 No formal Grants allocation was identified in the Budget but it is suggested a sum of £10,000 is agreed for 2016/17 and is reviewed as part of the budget process for 2017/18

4. Risk

- 4.1 The Town Council needs to have in place an agreed grants policy.

5. Grants Panel

5.1 In line with the way many other councils operate it would be appropriate to delegate the consideration of grants to a Committee or Sub-committee. The Town Council has in place the Events Advisory Committee which has responsibility for the oversight of arrangements for events. It may be appropriate to extend the remit of the Panel to consider and decide on grant applications

5.2 The terms of reference of the Committee can be amended to take on this responsibility

6. Outstanding Enquiries

- 6.1 There are a number of organisations beginning to ask if the Town Council gives grants to support local groups, it would seem appropriate for the Town Council to set up its grants process to support local community groups.

7. Recommendations

The Council is asked to consider: -

- i. adopting the draft Grants Policy
- ii. extending the remit of the Events Advisory Committee to oversee the grants process
- iii. instructing the Town Clerk to change the responsibilities and delegations of the Events Advisory Panel to carry out the work