

POLICY, GOVERNANCE & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 24 July 2023

Title: Grants & Subsidised Lettings

Contact Officer: Deputy Town Clerk

Background

In addition to a discretionary grants budget which is dispersed bi-annually in June and January, the Council holds specific budgets for certain groups or organisations in Witney.

These organisations are able to request annual amounts for the services or events they provide the town council and the town in general.

Current Situation

The following applications have been submitted for consideration:

Annual Grants

1. Witney Town Band

A request for £660 has been received for the current year. Awarding of this grant covers running costs and performances by the Band at events during the Council's year including, Remembrance Sunday, St George's Day Parade and the Mayor's Carols Service.

2. Rotary Club of Witney – Christmas Lights Switch-on Event

A request for £2,100 has been received to provide entertainment, stalls and technical support for switching on the Christmas Lights in Witney for 2023.

Note: The Stronger Communities Committee resolved the Christmas Lights Switch-on event should be held along previous lines at its meeting on 12 June 2023. The Rotary Club of Witney accepted the invitation to run and manage the switch on event, leading to this application.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

Financial implications

At the Annual Council Meeting held on 17 May 2023, the Council invoked the General Power of Competence under which the ability to award these grants is made.

Both annual grant requests can be funded from their allocated budget lines:

- Christmas Lights Switch-On Event (4104/408)
- Witney Town Band (4112/408)

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. The annual grant requests from Witney Town Band and the Rotary Club of Witney for the Christmas Lights switch-on event.