

POLICY, GOVERNANCE & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 20 November 2023

Title: Annual Grants

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 organisations have specific budgets for annual grants which have not yet been released in the current fiscal year:

Witney & District Twinning Association

£500 is held as an annual town council contribution towards the association.

Volunteer Link Up

£2,000 is held to assist in providing a valuable service in Witney. This was raised from £500 in 2022/23 following a request from the organisation.

Witney & District Museum

£500 is funded from the discretionary grants fund. There was agreement in 2022/23 that this should be an annual grant to help towards the running of this valuable historical service.

Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire

£2,000 is held to financially assist West Oxfordshire Citizens Advice. A recent newsletter updating on the work of CABWO is attached as **Appendix A**.

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 implication

The above annual grants can be funded from their allocated budget lines:

4160/408	Witney Twinning Association	£500
4101/407	Citizens Advice West Oxon	£2,000
4162/407	Volunteer Link Up	£2,000
4100/407	Witney Museum	£500

Grants to the Witney Twinning Association, Volunteer Link Up and Witney Museum can be provided under the General Power of Competence. The power to grant support to Citizens Advice West Oxon can be made under Section 142 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Recommendations

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

1. Whether to provide annual grants as outlined and budgeted for, subject to a written request.