

POLICY, GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date: 22nd March 2021
Title: Discretionary Grant Applications
Contact Officer: Deputy Town Clerk – Adam Clapton

Background

The remaining budget for general grants (4100/407) for 2020-21 budget cycle is £13,950 (includes £500 pledged to Witney Buttercross Scouts).

The remaining budget for subsidised lettings (4110/407) for 2020-21 is £743 (some events have yet to take place due to the Covid-19 Pandemic).

Applications

The following applications for discretionary grants have been received: -

1. Oxfordshire Association of Blind

A request for £500 towards information, advice and equipment project which includes helpline, leaflets, website, social media and Resource Centre which is the only one dedicated to visually impaired people.

2. Life Education Wessex & Thames Valley

A request for £300 to deliver the Harold & Life Education Project – 3 days of health, wellbeing and drug prevention workshops for over 300 pupils into Madley Brook primary School on 20-22 April 2021.

3. Carterton Gymnastics Club

A request for £10,000 towards the cost of specialist gymnastic and safety equipment. In conversations with Officers, the club has advised that the creation of the premises will benefit the whole of West Oxfordshire, and Witney residents of which 24.5% of families are from.

The Council has also received correspondence from Witney Pride and Dance for Life concerning grants given in 2020 (included as appendices to this report).

Witney Educational Foundation has advised it has a new budget and is able to provide grants. They have requested that the Town Council provides a link from its website to promote this.

Environmental impact

There would be no environmental impact if these requests were granted.

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.

The Council has a policy and criteria for which it uses to award its grants to ensure public funds are allocated and used appropriately.

The Council has the General Power of Competence (GPC) which generally these grants are awarded under.

Financial implications

As outlined in the report and grant applications

Recommendations

Members are invited to note this report and

1. Consider the requests for funding as detailed in this report and the attached grant applications,
2. Consider the request from the Witney Educational Foundation to promote it's grant funding initiative,
3. Note the correspondence from Witney Pride and Dance for Life.