

STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 19 July 2021

Title: Youth Services Grant Award 2021

Contact Officer: Deputy Town Clerk - Adam Clapton

Background

The Town Council established a youth funding grant in 2020-21 due to concerns over the lack of youth service provision in Witney; the issue having been identified by local stakeholders through the work of the Council's Youth Services Working Party.

In 2020-21 the fund of £30k was shared between Got2B CIC, Home-Start Oxford and Junior parkrun. Apart from Junior parkrun, the other organisations were able to continue their work throughout the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Current Situation

The Council has budgeted a further £30k for the new financial year, 2021-22 towards Youth Services.

Members are asked to consider if the fund should run as it did in the previous year, under the same criteria and timeframe, opening for applications on 1st August 2021. The criteria and application form are attached as appendices.

Environmental impact

There is no known environmental impact arising from this issue.

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.

Members should note that at the time of writing, the evolution of the Covid-19 virus is unknown. The Council should be satisfied that any funds awarded through this process will not be at risk should restrictions change in the coming year.

Financial implications

Described here or as stated in the report above.

Recommendations

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

1. Opening the Youth Services Grant Award scheme under the same criteria as the previous year on 1st August 2021; and
2. Including a further condition regarding the continued delivery of services during further Covid-19 pandemic restrictions/lockdowns. Awarded funds being repaid should this not be possible within the following twelve months.