

## STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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**Date:** Monday 20 September 2021

**Title:** Youth Services Grant 2021

**Contact Officer:** Deputy Town Clerk – Adam Clapton

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### Background

The Council's Youth Services Grant 2021 opened for applications between 1 August 2021 – 1 September 2021. Grants will be dispersed from a budget of £30,000 set for this scheme.

For reference, the purpose of the fund is as follows,

*'The Youth Fund is open to applications from community and voluntary sector organisations, including existing organisations and those in the process of setting up to establish easily signposted and accessible youth opportunities, supporting open access to preventative services, particularly for those who may be hard to reach and to extend activities to support the young people of Witney,*

*Activities may include, for example, providing guidance and support about their lives and issues relating to school, family life and peers through way of drop-in sessions.*

*Applications may, for example, facilitate the provision of a safe space for young people who would otherwise have nowhere to go, including a safe space to talk, and the ability to enjoy some self-directed or group/organised discretionary activities.'*

### Current Situation

Five applications for the fund, totalling £52,100.00 were received and are outlined below with the requested amounts:

Group or Organisation	Amount Requested
Got2B CIC	£24,500
Home-Start Oxford	£12,000
Oxfordshire Music & Arts Trust (formerly the 7Cs Foundation)	£9,800
Synolos	£5,000
Buttercross Theatre Productions	£800

A summary sheet with criteria scoring evaluations is included with the full applications/supporting documents as confidential appendices to this report.

It should be noted that the scoring has been carried out without bias by Officers based on the criteria as set out in the application process. Members should refer to the applications for full details before considering any outcomes of the fund.

While the decision on awarding grants is made by the Policy, Governance and Finance Committee, members may like to consider the requests and documents provided at this meeting to see if any further supporting documentation is required from applicants.

The committee may also like to make recommendations to the Policy, Governance and Finance committee on the outcome of awards.

### **Environmental impact**

There is no discernible impact on the environment from this project.

### **Risk**

The Committee should ensure that all criteria are met, and necessary documents are provided by applicants before recommending funding.

### **Financial implications**

- A budget of £30k has been agreed and budgeted for within this financial year only for the purpose of this grant.
- There is no additional budget over and above the amount already set.

### **Recommendations**

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

1. Whether further information or clarification on any matter is required from applicants,
2. Recommendations on allocation of funds to the Policy, Governance & Finance Committee to be held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021.