

To receive amendments to the following policies and procedures and consider any actions:

STC Grants Policy

1. Amendments regarding grants for works to buildings and property owned by the Church or other faiths.

The Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 received Royal Assent on 26 October 2023. Section 82 of the Act amended the Local Government Act 1894, coming into force in December 2023.

Prior to this amendment STC were unable to consider applications for grants for works to buildings and property owned by the Church or other faiths except in the case of parish clocks or church halls available for use by the wider community.

Guidance issued by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and the Cornwall Association of Local Councils (CALC) has subsequently advised that town and parish councils, using their discretionary powers, are not prohibited from in law from funding repairs or improvements to church buildings and property (this applies to all faiths). It does not confer any duty on councils to fund works to church property or activity; it simply does not prohibit councils to do so if there is another power to spend.

CALC further advises that as with all grant requests, any benefit being brought to the wider community should be considered. Buildings owned by the church (or other faith organisations) which are frequently used for community events and organisations may well bring such a benefit to the community that the council determines that it is appropriate to use public money to fund. The Committee may wish to consider explicitly stating this use and benefit as a requirement for funding in the policy.

The Grants Policy has been reviewed and amended to reflect the updated guidance. Update to page 14 with the removal of 8.7.

2. Safeguarding

The policy has now been amended to make it mandatory for organisations who work with children, young people and/or vulnerable adults to submit a copy of their Safeguarding Policy with their application.

Amendments have been made to reflect these changes on pages 25 and 26 and contained within Appendix 4.

3. Press and Social Media Releases

As part of the acknowledgment of a grant, it is requested that successful applicants will provide a 'quote' on how the grant will benefit their organisation, along with a suitable photo for use in future Town Council press releases.

The Grants Policy has been reviewed and amended to reflect the request on page 8 and contained within Appendix 4.

4. Appendix 4 – Approval Form and Conditions

Appendix 4 has been added as an additional appendix within the Grants Policy.

End of report.

Senior Policy and Data Compliance Officer