

To receive a report on Town Council Grant Funding and consider any actions

Report to: Policy and Finance Committee

Date of Report: 6 January 2025

Officer Writing the Report: Town Clerk / RFO

Officers Recommendations

If Members wish to make the grant awards available to individuals, the criteria must be robust and achievable for both parties.

Sufficient funds will need to be made available – see the budget section of the report for further information.

There are financial risks in making payments to individuals and the level of scrutiny available is not as great as when making grants to organisations.

Depending on the individual reason for the grant, safeguarding would need to be carefully considered.

Members are asked to ensure that part of the criteria of awarding individuals refers to the Town Council Strategic Priorities to provide clarification to the applicant on what the Town Council would be willing to allocate public money against.

Report Summary

Saltash Town Council have the power under the General Power of Competence to award grants to individuals and organisations. The current Grants Policy does not permit applications from individuals except in exceptional circumstances (section 7 page 12) and is not something Saltash Town Council has considered in the past.

Any requests for support or sponsorship received from young people are referred to the Saltash Youth Network (formerly Saltash Youth Council). The Town Council has for many years provided a grant to Saltash Youth Network to support the services they provide to the community.

A brief review of Town and Parish Councils in Cornwall shows that some include making grants to individuals within their grants policy. However, the criteria is robust to ensure the public purse is protected.

Members are asked if they wish to amend the Grants Policy to enable awarding grants to individuals. If so, further work will be required and brought back to the Policy and Finance Committee for consideration.

Budgets

Budget Availability: £6,060 for 2024-25

Budget Availability: £10,300 for 2025-26

Budget Codes: 6210 Community Chest

Committed Spend: N/A

Budget Availability: £912 for 2024-25

Budget Availability: £15,450 for 2025-26

Budget Codes: 6220 Festival Fund

Committed Spend: N/A

Signature of Officer:

Town Clerk / RFO