

ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Report to	COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
Meeting date	28 November 2023
Report author	Democratic Services Officer
Agenda item	6a

GRANTS DETERMINATION REPORT

1. Purpose of this report

1.1 Presentation of grant applications received for approval.

2. Summary

2.1 The following grant applications have been received for consideration by the Committee:

Abingdon Church Twinning Committee	£300
Healthy Abingdon	£700
Abingdon Street Pastors	£2,000
<u>One Planet Abingdon 2023-24</u>	<u>£10,000</u>
Total for 2023-24 applications	£13,000

One Planet Abingdon 2024-25 **£35,000** – grant for 2024-25

2.2 The applications have been assessed against the council's objectives and grant scoring sheets are provided for each application.

2.3 The remaining budget available in the annual community grants fund (406/4886) for 2023-24 is £17,135.

3. Action required

3.1 Members are requested to determine these grant applications.

4. **Link to strategic plan and objectives**

4.1 The award of community grants for various organisations accords with all of the town council's key objectives:

1. To respond effectively and speedily to the climate emergency.
2. To develop a resilient, sustainable town which will provide a home for residents now and in the future.
3. To manage the Council's assets efficiently and effectively to meet for the needs of the community now and in the future.
4. To work with community partners to support those who are vulnerable and in need and to create opportunities to increase social inclusivity.

5. **Background**

5.1 Abingdon Church Twinning Committee has previously been awarded grants by the town council as follows:

2019-20	£150
<u>2022-23</u>	<u>£250</u>
Total	£400

5.2 Healthy Abingdon has previously been awarded grants by the town council as follows:

2022-23	£380
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5.3 Abingdon Street Pastors have previously been awarded grants by the town council as follows:

2011-12	£1,000
2012-13	£1,000
2013-14	£750
2014-15	£1,000
2016-17	£2,000
2017-18	£1,000
<u>2021-22</u>	<u>£1,500</u>
Total	£8,250

5.4 One Planet Abingdon has not received any community grant funding from the town council but the climate emergency centre basement space has been provided rent-free by the town council since 2021, with a five-year lease agreed to November 2027.

6. **Key information and options**

6.1 Members are required to consider the grant applications and choose one of the following options:

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- (i) Award the grants requested in full;
- (ii) Award a partial amount of the grants requested;
- (iii) Refuse the grant request and confirm the reason for this decision;
- (iv) Request further information from the applicants and defer a decision to a future meeting.

6.2 The table below summarises the applications:

Applicant	Project	Total cost of project	Grant applied for	Total score	Score to grant applied for (score/grant applied for x 100)
Abingdon Church Twinning Society	Twinning visit for passion play	£1,030	£300	8	$\frac{8}{300} \times 100 = 2.67$
Healthy Abingdon	Abingdon Healthfest 2024	£935	£700	15	$\frac{15}{700} \times 100 = 2.14$
Abingdon Street Pastors	Outreach work in Abingdon	£9,184	£2,000	10	$\frac{10}{2000} \times 100 = 0.5$
One Planet Abingdon	Operation of Climate Emergency Centre 2023-24	£17,000	£10,000	13	$\frac{13}{10000} \times 100 = 0.13$

One Planet Abingdon	Operation of Climate Emergency Centre 2024-25	£58,100	£35,000	13	$\frac{13}{35000} \times 100 = 0.04$
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6.3 The intention of calculating the **score to grant applied for** is to allow a comparison which considers both the financial request and the ways in which the project can meet the aims and objectives of the council. A higher score suggests that the grant offers better value for money than a lower scoring application. For comparison, grants awarded since May 2023 have had scores of 12, 13, 3, 11, 6, 8 and 14

7. Climate change/green implications

7.1 As part of the grant scoring process the green implications of each application are considered and are reflected in the final scorings.

8. **Financial/budget implications**

- 8.1 The budget for community grants for 2023-24 is £30,000 (406/4886), of which £12,865 has been used this year. Councillors are advised that any unspent element of the budget at the end of the civic year shall be transferred to the general fund and will not be available to fund any further community grants.
- 8.2 If the grants for the current year are awarded in full the remaining community grant budget for this year would be £4,135. Please note that the grant applied for by One Planet Abingdon for 2024-25 has not been included in this calculation.

9. **HR implications**

- 9.1 None.

10. **Supporting papers and appendices**

- 10.1 Application forms and grant scoring criteria spreadsheets are provided. Financial information is available for councillors to view in Sharepoint.

Andy Crick
Democratic Services Officer
23 November 2023