



## Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

# Large community grant application recipients annual budget report

As your organisation has in recent years received a regular grant from the town council, we would be grateful if you could provide information on how the grant is used. This information will be shared with the Community Committee to inform the forthcoming work on the budget for 2026-27.

Please complete the information below and return the form to [andy.crick@abingdon.gov.uk](mailto:andy.crick@abingdon.gov.uk) by **Monday 27 October 2025**.

**Please note that this information may be placed in the public domain.**

### Organisation details

Organisation name	The Abingdon Bridge (TAB)
Please state briefly what the purpose of your organisation with specific reference to your activities in Abingdon-on-Thames	<p><b>Our vision</b> Strong local community connection where young people act with purpose, belong with confidence, and commit to giving back.</p> <p><b>Our Mission</b></p> <p>To support young people aged 13–25 across Abingdon to build resilience, strengthen their sense of belonging, and take positive action in their lives and communities — through early help, trusted relationships, and inclusive, community-rooted support.</p> <p><b>Our Values (Framed around Act, Belong, Commit)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Act We support young people to take confident, practical steps towards their wellbeing, independence, and future. We help them build on their strengths and develop the skills and confidence to move forward with purpose.</li> <li>◇ Belong We create inclusive spaces where young people feel seen, heard, and part of something bigger — recognising the value each that person brings to their community.</li> <li>◇ Commit We build trust, remain responsive, , and act with integrity— with young people, staff, partners, and funders. We’re committed to long-term relationships, ethical practice, robust safeguarding, and transparent</li> </ul>

	<p>governance — building a culture rooted in trust, safety, and accountability.</p> <p><b><i>These values don't just shape how we work with young people — they guide how we engage with our funders, partners, and wider community.</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>1-to-1 Support</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Counselling</b> — therapeutic support from qualified professionals</li> <li>• <b>Mentoring &amp; Coaching</b> — Skilled professionals helping young people set goals, build confidence, and navigate life challenges</li> </ul> </li> <li>◆ <b>Group &amp; Educational Programmes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Psychoeducational Group Work</b> — safe spaces to learn, be curious and explore</li> <li>• <b>Educational Workshops</b> — in schools and the community, raising awareness, building skills and facilitating prevention</li> </ul> </li> <li>◆ <b>Community-Based Outreach</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Community Drop-Ins</b> — open, informal spaces to connect</li> <li>• <b>Outreach Initiatives</b> — taking support to where young people are within the community</li> </ul> </li> <li>◆ <b>Wellbeing &amp; Peer Leadership</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gym &amp; Wellness Programmes</b> — combining physical activity with emotional support</li> <li>• <b>Youth Ambassador Programme</b> — empowering young people to lead, shape, and advocate for youth voice</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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**Financial information**

<p>Organisation budget for 2025-26 (If your financial year runs for a different period, please provide details for the relevant year which accords with the grant awarded)</p>	<p>Headline Numbers (More detail can be provided if needed)</p> <p>Forecast Income: £520,000</p> <p>Forecast Expenditure: £518,000</p> <p>We are currently working hard to produce a balanced budget for this current financial year (25/26)</p> <p>Our real challenge comes next financial year 2026/2027 we are forecasting a deficit of around £111,000. We sadly will be having a funding pause from BBC children in need as we have received the maximum of 9 years of consecutive funding. This will increase the pressure to raise the funds to help us keep up with demand. We are so grateful for the ATC support, and we really hope you can continue to support through tis challenging period.</p> <p><i>The Reserves Policy states - "The trustees have examined the charity's reserves requirement considering the main risks to the organisation. Reserves are currently and always are kept</i></p>
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	<i>within our policy limit and are less than our annual income. A policy has been established in which unrestricted funds, not committed to or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity, should be between three and nine months of total expenditure.</i>
Amount of grant received from Abingdon Town Council for 2025-26	£27,500 This work will run through until March 2026 (a full report will be provided to the Town council on the impact of this work April 2026)

**Please provide your latest annual accounts with this form.**

Please outline how the grant from the town council has been allocated within your organisation’s budget for the current financial year, including financial information. Please feel free to provide any relevant documents to support this report but it would be helpful if the essential information requested could be set out below to help the committee in its work.

(The box below will expand when typed into. If you are completing this form by hand, please add information on a separate sheet of paper.)

The Abingdon Bridge (TAB) fully understands and adheres to good funding governance, ensuring that any funds received from the Town Council are ring-fenced exclusively for the benefit of young people and the wider community of Abingdon.

We allocate staffing hours strategically across North, Town, and South Abingdon to ensure a fair and transparent distribution of resources.

The current funding sits within our reserved Abingdon Project income, under the heading **“Youth Voice.”**

All staff costs associated with this project are monitored and tracked separately, with the funds contributing directly to the additional staffing required to deliver the agreed objectives (as outlined in a previous report).

A full report on the use of these funds will be provided at the end of the current financial year.

If you would like to request a grant for 2026-27, please provide details of the amount and purpose for this.

Grant requested	£27,500
Purpose of grant (please outline briefly your organisation’s purpose)	<b>The Abingdon Bridge (TAB): “Act, Belong, Commit” Building on Success for 2026–2028</b> TAB is proud to have worked in partnership with Abingdon Town Council over recent years to support young people and strengthen community wellbeing. With your continued investment, we are now in a position to build on the progress made and

deliver the new Abingdon Youth Strategy (2025–2028) — ensuring that every young person in Abingdon feels heard, supported, and empowered to thrive.

During the past year, TAB's *Act, Belong, Commit (ABC)* model has been embedded in the community, and we have seen record levels of engagement, with numerous success stories emerging across North, Central, and South Abingdon.

We will be reporting fully on this impact early in 2026 and facilitating a series of consultation events with the Town Council, young people, and wider community partners to co-design the next stage of the strategy and delivery. The below can then be more tailored once this has been done ready for April 2026 -

Our vision for 2026–27 is to **build on lessons learned** and **maximise our strong local standing** to help the Town Council deliver on the *Abingdon Youth Strategy 2025–2028*.

### **Core objectives**

We will:

- **Listen** – Deepen engagement through community and youth consultations to shape local decision-making.
- **Co-create** – Work alongside young people and community partners to develop new initiatives that respond to local needs.
- **Amplify** – Support young people to share their experiences and lead the conversation about what matters to them.(look at several opportunities)
- **Empower** – Develop young leaders and community champions to take social action and promote inclusion across the town.

### **Key areas of delivery**

To achieve this, TAB will:

- Facilitate town-wide youth consultations (with young people, schools, CSP, community groups, and the Town Council).
- Continue our partnership with Lizzie Martin, Community Engagement Lead, to ensure joined-up working and strategic alignment.
- **Increase youth outreach** across Abingdon's open spaces and estates, engaging those hardest to reach.
- Develop **Youth Ambassadors** and community champions to promote positive pathways and intergenerational connection.
- Continue to provide trusted 1:1 and group interventions to over **100 young people per week**, including:
  - Counselling and wellbeing support
  - Psychoeducational groups and workshops
  - Gym and activity-based interventions
  - Outreach and engagement projects

### **Impact and alignment**

This work directly contributes to **Objective 4** of the Town Council's Strategic Plan — *to work with community partners to support those who are vulnerable and in need, to increase social inclusion, and to allocate resources where they have the highest impact.*

### **Strength and sustainability**

TAB now has its **strongest ever youth work team**, including:

- Holly Freeland – Lead Youth Worker
- Kevin Hickman – Community Engagement Worker
- Three Junior Youth Workers

This investment has transformed our capacity to deliver meaningful, town-wide youth engagement. Without the Town Council's support, this progress simply would not have been possible.

### **Looking ahead**

We are seeking continued support to sustain and scale this work, embedding the ABC model as a cornerstone of the Abingdon Youth Strategy and building a stronger, more connected, and resilient community for years to come.

### **The Need in Abingdon**

Based on our latest assessment data, young people accessing TAB's support are facing a wide range of complex and often hidden challenges:

- 4 out of 5 are experiencing anxiety or stress
- 1 in 7 are having panic attacks
- 1 in 3 are feeling depressed
- 3 in 10 are struggling with low self-esteem
- Over 1 in 5 are self-harming
- Over 1 in 6 are being bullied
- 1 in 7 have experienced emotional, physical, or sexual abuse
- 1 in 14 are living with an eating disorder
- Over 2 in 5 cite family relationships as a source of distress
- 3 in 10 have actively thought about or attempted suicide

These numbers are not just statistics, they represent real young people living in our town, often feeling isolated, disconnected, and unseen. Behind every figure is a young person who needs time, trust, and support to rebuild confidence and connection. The scale and complexity of these needs reinforce the importance of the Town Council's continued investment in youth wellbeing and early intervention.

TAB is also proud to celebrate our recent partnership with the **Abingdon Domestic Abuse Charter**. As a recognised partner, we are committed to supporting young people both through early prevention and responsive support, focusing on healthy relationships, trauma recovery, and awareness-raising across schools and community settings. This partnership marks an important step in our collective effort to make Abingdon a safer, more compassionate community for all. *"Before getting involved*

	<i>with TAB, I didn't really feel like my voice mattered. Now I feel like I'm part of something that's actually changing things for young people in Abingdon. It's helped me build confidence and find a real sense of belonging." Js 16</i>
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Signed	Gary Hibbins
Date	27/10/2025
Name	Gary Hibbins
Position in organisation	CEO

**Please remember to provide your latest annual accounts with this form.**