

ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Report to	Community Committee
Meeting date	18 February 2026
Report author	Project Manager for Business and Community Engagement
Agenda item	6

GRANTS DETERMINATION REPORT

1. Purpose of this report

1.1 Presentation of grant applications received for consideration by the committee.

2. Summary

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

Abingdon Drama Club	£3512.80
Abingdon School Librarians Group	£700
Assisted Reading For Children (ARCH)	£1000
ATOM	£1,250
Dialogue Society Oxford	£7,500
Life Space	£5,000
Oxfordshire Play Association	£1,500
Thames Ridge Scouts	£500
The Archway Foundation	£2,000
Total	£22,962.80

2.2 The application has been assessed against the council's objectives, and a grant scoring sheet is provided with this report.

2.3 The remaining budget available in the annual community grants fund (406/4886) for 2025-26 is £7,540.

3. Action required

3.1 Members are requested to determine these grant applications.

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

4.1 The objective being met is: '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 The applicants have previously been awarded grants by the town council as follows:

Abingdon Drama Club

2014-2015	£610
2015-2016	£700

Assisted Reading For Children (ARCH)

2010-2011	£400
2018-2019	£1000

Abingdon School Librarians Group

2024-2025	£600
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ATOM

2013-2014	£1500
2016-2017	£930
2017-2018	£1000
2018-2019	£1000
2019-2020	£1000
2020-2021	£600
2022-2023	£800
2024-2025	£1100

Dialogue Society Oxford

None

Life Space

None

Oxfordshire Play Association

2021-2022	£1000
2022-2023	£1000
2023-2024	£1000
2024-2025	£1000

Thames Ridge Scouts

None

The Archway Foundation

2010-2011	£800
2012-2013	£650
2020-2021	£2500

6. **Key information and options**

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

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

6.2 The table below summarises the application:

Applicant	Project	Total cost of project	Grant applied for	Total score	Score to grant applied for (score/grant applied for x 100)
Abingdon Drama Club	Restoration and repair of clubhouse	£4,012.80	£3,512.80	16	$\frac{16}{3512.80} \times 100 = 0.5$
Abingdon School's Librarians	To run joint reading initiatives on behalf of Abingdon Secondary Schools.	£1900	£700	12	$\frac{12}{700} \times 100 = 1.7$
Assisted Reading For Children	Funding towards resources (books and games) for our Abingdon volunteers to use with children in their ARCh sessions.	£6000	£1000	15	$\frac{15}{1000} \times 100 = 1.5$
ATOM Festival	Community Science Event	£13,200	£1,250	16	$\frac{16}{1250} \times 100 = 1.28$
Dialogue Society Oxford	Run 10 sessions in total across Abingdon to enable a stronger understanding of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, contributing to a more inclusive and cohesive society	£10,000	£7,500	12	$\frac{12}{7500} \times 100 = 0.16$

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Life Space Project	Moments of Joy community led project focusing on small meaningful moments that support wellbeing to people who are isolated.	£20,300	£5000	17	$\frac{17}{5000} \times 100 = 0.34$
Oxford Play Association	Provide a free play day community event.	£5,000	£1500	19	$\frac{19}{1500} \times 100 = 1.27$
Thames Ridge Scouts	To purchase essential equipment to support a wide range of scouting activities.	£500	£500	14	$\frac{14}{500} \times 100 = 2.8$
The Archway Foundation	Support the costs of providing one-to-one support services and a social support group in Abingdon	£11,315	£2000	18	$\frac{18}{2000} \times 100 = 0.9$

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.

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 2025-26 is £30,000 (406/4886), of which £22,460 has been used this year. 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 requested grants are awarded in full the remaining community grant budget for this year would be -£10,422.80.

9. **HR implications**

9.1 None.

10. **Supporting papers and appendices**

10.1 Application forms, supporting information and grant scoring criteria spreadsheets.

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04 February 2026