

## Agenda Item 6

For decision: Community Grants £300 - £2,000

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### Summary

The Grants Advisory Panel (GAP) met on 12 June 2019 to consider 14 applications for round one of the Community Grants. 7 of them are recommended for approval as shown in Table 1 below.

The GAP have also drafted terms of reference for a review of Multi Year Agreements, which are recommended for approval at this meeting.

The Grants Advisory Panel (GAP) is made up of interested councillors and primarily meets to review community grant applications three times per year. The group recommends distribution of grant funding, through the administration of an application process to Town Matters Committee. The group also reviews the processes used for grants. It is proposed in this paper that the GAP review Multi Year Agreements, and we anticipate that they will review the community grants programme in the coming year.

#### 1. Community Grants (£300 - £2,000) – for approval

There would be three grant rounds this financial year with a total budget of £25,000 roughly split to £8,300 for each grant round. Bids are assessed by Councillors who are members of the Panel, using a scoring system. The Panel then meets to discuss and agree recommendations, which then come to the Town Matters Committee for approval.

The Grants Advisory Panel met on 12<sup>th</sup> June to consider 14 applications submitted in this first grant window, totalling £22,110.60.

Table 1 shows the grants proposed by the Panel for approval. Table 2 highlights those projects not recommended for approval.

Table 1. Community Grants £300 - £2,000 - for approval

Applicant	Project	Amount requested	Amount agreed	Conditions / recommendations
SWEDA (Somerset and Wessex Eating Disorders Association)	SWEDA Youth Awareness in Frome	£1,890	£1,890	The condition of this grant is that the funds are used for the sole purpose of benefitting Frome residents. We expect to see appropriate evidence of this in the evaluation.

Frome Flyers Cycling Club	Launch of Frome Flyers Cycling Club	£1,990	£1,990	£1000 to cover the cost of bikes will be granted unconditionally, with the remaining £990 to be released upon proof of securing further funding.
Nova Sports and Coaching	Frome Multisports Club	£1,305	£1,000	The organisation is recommended to work further with Kate Hellard to secure continued funding.
Black Swan Arts	Exploring Frome's Heritage	£2,000	£820	This amount is recommended in order to fulfil the existing shortfall in the budget.
Frome Falcons Powerchair Football Club	Frome Falcons Powerchair Football Club	£1,990	£500	This amount is recommended in order to contribute to venue costs.
Shared Earth Learning	Holiday Forest School	£1,440	£500	This amount is recommended to support the project while taking into account the high demand in this grants round.
Purple Elephant Productions	Frome Toy Library	£2,000	£500	This amount is recommended to cover the costs of parenting support training.
TOTAL			£7,200	

Table 2. Not recommended for approval

Applicant	Project	Amount requested	Reason for not recommending
Friends of the River Frome	Meadowfest 2019	£2,000	It is not recommended to approve this grant due to subsequently agreed support with the organisation for this project.
Frome Museum	Street of Shops	£250	It is not recommended to approve this grant due to a review of the accounts, and the high number of applications received.
Shared Earth Learning Co-Op	Play Rangers	£2,000	It is not recommended to approve this grant due to high demand for funding in this round and a lack of supporting evidence in the application. The organisation are advised to work further with Kate Hellard to explore options for funding.
Open Storytellers	Garden Club	£1,650	It is not recommended to approve this grant due to high demand for funding.

			However, the organisation is recommended to work with FTC to secure other forms of support (e.g. assistance from the Rangers team).
FROGS (on behalf of Frome Tree Group)	Frome Tree Day 2	£2,000	It is not recommended to approve this grant due to the high demand for funding. The organisation are recommended to work further with FTC to explore ways to reduce costs, such as securing free trees.
Frome Memorial Theatre	New floor cleaner for the Assembly Rooms	£1,500	It is not recommended to approve this grant due to the high demand for funding. The organisation are recommended to work further with FTC to explore ways to secure funding.
Jackdaws Music Education Trust	Jackdaws Summer Production	£560	It is not recommended to approve this grant due to the high demand for funding.

#### Recommendations

1. To agree the decisions made by the Grants Advisory Panel and approve the recommended grant funding.
2. To delegate authority to the Grants Advisory Panel to ensure the recommended conditions are met and review the impacts of this funding as appropriate.

## 2. Multi Year Agreements

10 organisations have received multi-year agreement funding for the last 3 years (April 2017-March 2020): Fair Frome, Active and In Touch, Purple Elephant Productions, Frome Carnival, Frome Festival, Frome Community Education, Mendip Health Connections, Frome YMCA, Frome CAB and Harry's Hydro. This funding was agreed in order to provide funding stability and certainty for organisations delivering key objectives for the town.

The agreements come to an end in March 2020, with the exception of Harry's Hydro which is on a longer-term agreement. It is therefore proposed that the Grants Advisory Panel review what worked well and what could have been better, in order to agree a mechanism for administering such grants in the future.

It is recommended that the terms of reference for this discrete piece of work for the group are that The Grants advisory Panel meet between June and September to review the MYA agreements in order to develop a proposed criteria and application process for 2020, to be considered at council on September 25<sup>th</sup> 2019.

The group will:

- Visit existing MYA recipients to learn more about the impact and successes of the existing funding.
- Hear from other groups and organisations about what might work in the future.
- Assess the existing contracts and monitoring systems used.
- Draft new criteria and propose an application process for administering 2020+ MYA's.

#### Recommendations

1. To agree to the terms of reference for the grants advisory panel to review multi-year agreements.
2. To delegate authority to the Grants advisory panel and Community Development Manager to review the multi-year agreements and present a proposed process at Council in September 2019.