

## Agenda item 4

### For Decision - Community Grants

Author: Kate Hellard, Community Development Manager and Grants Advisory Panel

#### Summary

This paper outlines a revised Community Grants application form and Terms and Conditions for the delivery of three grant rounds in 2023/24. It also proposes the formation of a Grants Committee which will make decisions in public meetings informed by scoring of applications against the criteria by members of the committee. The chair for this committee would be the mayor.

#### Background

FTC has run its existing community grants programme, with various revisions, since 2011. This latest revision takes into account the most recent Council Plan 2022 – 2024, and the budget for 2023/2024. The total grants budget for 2023/2024 is £53k.

The Grants Advisory Group has considered in detail how best to meet the needs of local community organisations; providing funding for new and or innovative projects, which meet the needs of local residents and are able to become financially resilient over time. They recommend that the Community Grants be reintroduced for 23/24.

Applications, through the application form in [appendix 4.1, which can be viewed on the website here](#), will need to demonstrate:

- How the project will support FTC's ambition '*to build a town that is environmentally sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous with a community that is more resilient, happier, and better able to shape its own future.*'
- A need for the project / existing gap in provision.
- A direct positive impact for Frome residents.
- How the project will be financially sustainable in the long term, independent of FTC funding.

They will also need to adhere to the terms and conditions as detailed in [appendix 4.2 on the website here](#).

The group would also like to address the need for decisions to be transparent and timely and recommend the formation of a new Grants Committee which will meet three times a year. The first round of grants will open on the 15 June and close on the Monday 21 August 2023, with the first meeting taking place on the Wednesday 30 August 2023. If Council agrees to this, a report to the next Council meeting would include the remit and membership.

#### Recommendations

1. For Council to agree to the creation of a new Grants Committee
2. For Council to agree to the chair being the Mayor, Philip Campagna