

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE
Monday 3rd JUNE 2024**

Officer: Andy Watkin – Head of Resources (RFO)

Grants Fund Allocations

Purpose of Report

To appraise members on the Grant Fund allocations for 2024/25 following recent increase and allocation within schemes available.

Schemes available

Prior to setting the budget for 2024/25 the grant funds available had remained constant for a number of years at £20,000 and split as follows:

- £7,250 Community Grant fund (submissions considered July and January)
- £12,750 Local Councillor Grant Fund £750 per ward (submissions all year round)

While Inflation has broadly increased by more than 50%, the funds available have remained the same and the Finance & General Purposes committee proposed to increase the amount available by £20,000 to £40,000, which was ratified for 2024/25

No immediate thought was given to how this would be allocated with suggestions of a fund with larger limits for specific areas of concern.

Typically, the Community Grant fund is over subscribed with help need by the members at the meeting to support from the application from their own local councillor fund.

Proposals

Retain the current grant funds but increase the amounts available for the community scheme and set up a new scheme with higher limits for specific areas agreed annually.

- £17,250 Community Grant Fund
- £12,750 Local Councillor Grant Fund
- £10,000 Larger Community Grant Fund

The guidelines will be updated and checked against other Councils and the upper limit on applications for the Community Grant scheme be increased from £2,000 to £2,500.

Recommendations

- (i) That the proposals and the new limits agreed and creation of Larger Community Grants Fund**
- (ii) Suggestions from members made to Head of Resources on:**
 - a) Theme for 24/25**
 - b) maximum amount for one organisation to receive**
 - c) awards process****for inclusion in guidelines ahead of scheme being publicised**