



REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No:- FC24/010

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| Committee:- | Finance and Governance Committee |
| Date:- | 19 th June 2024 |
| Author:- | Martin Hammond, Clerk |
| Report Title:- | Grants Programmes for 2024-5 |
| Wards Affected:- | All |

1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval for the grants programme for 2024/5

2. Recommendations

Members' views are sought on

- The proposed timelines below
- The amalgamation of Love Wildlife and the environmental funds into one process
- The right limit for grant applications, given the size of the available funding pots.
- The attached draft policy on grants for 2024

3. Information

3.1. The Council has provision in its budget for two grants streams

- Voluntary and community sector grants - £10,000 – under the themes of mental health and cost of living mitigation
- Environmental and bio-diversity - £5,000

In addition, members have indicated they want to run the Love Wildlife grant/competition again in 2025, and there is an option of amalgamating this with the environmental pot above, to give a total budget of £8,000.

3.2. It is proposed that the two funds be managed on different timelines, to avoid congestion and confusion, as follows:-

| Stage | Voluntary and community sector grants | Environmental Grants |
|----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Open to applications | 15 th July to 9 th September 2024 | 1st October to end November 2024 |
| Determination by committee | 16th October 2024 | 22 nd January 2025 |
| Grants paid by | End November 2024 | End February 2025. |

3.3. The current ceiling on grant applications is £5,000 but this is now quite high relative to the funds available. It is also the ceiling placed by NNC on their small grant programmes. A lower ceiling (say £3,000) will help manage expectations and increase the range of eligible projects, whilst also accepting that too low a ceiling will reduce the impact or reach of projects.

3.4. If the Love Wildlife and Environmental projects are to be combined, it might be worth having two categories for applications e.g.

- Very local projects £250-£1000 - suggesting 5-8 successful applications
- Town wide projects £1000-£3000 – suggesting 2 successful applications

3.5 Draft policies for both sets of grants are attached at Appendices One and Two

4. Consultation and Engagement

None

5. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications

Neither of these grant programmes can be started until after purdah associated with the general election has completed.

6. Climate change implications

The environmental grants are aimed at improving bio diversity, improving the environment and helping tackle climate change. The voluntary sector grant applications will also be judged as to the environmental gain arising from each one. .

7. Policy Implications

This Committee agreed in February, in the light of experience with the 2023 grants round, to divide up the small grants allocation so that £5,000 went to core grants for selected organisations, £10,000 to mental health and cost of living themed applications and £5,000 to environmental purposes.

NNC also has a small grants pot which will go live later this year and one of their themes will be mental health, so it will be important to avoid clashing with this.

Background Papers

None

01.06.2024

