

RESOURCES COMMITTEE

9 DECEMBER 2024

FINANCIAL SUPPORT 2024/25

INTRODUCTION, BACKGROUND AND CURRENT POSITION

At the meeting of Wisbech Town Council on 22 January 2024 the Budget for the financial year 2024/25 and the Precept for that financial year were set (minute 86/23 refers). In setting the Budget and Precept, the council approved in full the recommendations of the Resources Committee in that regard (minute R22/23 refers).

At minute R10/23 this committee had decided that, with effect from the financial year 2024/25 there would no longer be “automatic” special grant payments to groups and organisations; any group or organisation seeking financial support from Wisbech Town Council would need to make an application for such support.

The committee agreed that applications submitted should relate to funding required to deliver specific projects/services/activities; not to contribute towards the organisation’s general operational costs (such as heating, lighting etc). Consequently, there is now, with effect from the financial year 2024/25, a single financial support budget, as opposed to the three separate funding pots (small grants, special grants and community support) which had been operated by the council in previous financial years.

Some of the activities which had received special grants funding up to and including the financial year 2023/24 – i.e. Wisbech and Fenland Museum, Wisbech in Bloom, Waterlees in Bloom and the Wisbech Christmas Fayre – now have their own allocations within the council’s overall budget.

The total Wisbech Town Council Budget for 2024/25 includes a sum of **£19,000 for financial support**.

Further to decisions made at minutes 88/23, 99/23, R27/23, R7/24 and R11/24, **£5,280 of the Financial Support budget for the financial year 2024/25 remains available**.

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Since the meeting of this committee on 15 July 2024 (the most recent date on which applications for financial support had been considered) the council has received three further applications for funding from the council’s 2024/25 financial support budget; these are set out below.

	Organisation	Purpose of financial support	Amount requested
1.	Evolution Health and Wellness Centre	The cost of purchasing 5 folding tables (at £150 each) and 20 folding chairs (at £30 each) for use by	£1,350 (total project cost)

		attendees at the therapy sessions and workshops delivered by this organisation.	
3.	Nene Art School CIC	<p>The cost of venue hire (£200) and arts/craft supplies (£300) to deliver this project (weekly after-school/out-of-school sessions for young people aged between 8 and 18 years, with the aim of promoting/supporting their health and wellbeing through participating in drawing, painting and crafts) between January and June 2025.</p> <p>This council had previously provided (at minute R7/24) funding (of £500) towards the cost of running taster sessions for this project (total project cost of £2,500).</p> <p>As a result of the taster sessions, Nene Art School CIC has 36 students signed-up for its weekly sessions, as well 10 students on a waiting list.</p>	£500 (total project cost of £2,000)
	The Armed Forces and Veterans Association Wisbech, on behalf of the Wisbech and Cambridgeshire Combined Corps of Drums	Contribution towards the cost of purchasing musical instruments and supporting items for the Wisbech and Cambridgeshire Combined Corps of Drums. The Wisbech and Cambridgeshire Combined Corps of Drums performs at military functions, including the Wisbech Remembrance Day Parade.	£300 (total project cost of £400)
	TOTAL		£2,150

Copies of the application forms received by the council will be provided to the members of the Resources Committee.

The council's guidance to applicants for grant funding states that Wisbech Town Council will look at the following issues when assessing funding requests: contribution to social, environmental, economic wellbeing, community involvement and activities, social inclusion, any previous funding, purpose of the organisation and the nature of the assistance requested.

The guidance makes it clear that applications submitted should relate to funding required to deliver specific projects/services/activities; not to contribute towards the group or organisation's general operational costs (such as heating, lighting etc).

It is a condition of any financial support provided by Wisbech Town Council that recognition is given in any literature/publicity produced by the recipient group or organisation to the financial support that it had received from the council; in addition, the recipient group or organisation is required to provide to Wisbech Town Council, at the end of the specific project, a brief report on the manner in which the financial support provided by Wisbech Town Council had been applied.

RECOMMENDATION

It is RECOMMENDED that members determine the three new applications received by the council (as set out in the table above).

Report author: Terry Jordan, Clerk (and Responsible Financial Officer) to Wisbech Town Council