

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

10 APRIL 2017

GRANT APPLICATIONS 2017/18

INTRODUCTION, BACKGROUND AND CURRENT POSITION

At the meeting of Wisbech Town Council on 25 January 2017 the Budget for 2017/18 and the Precept for that year were set (minute 125/16 refers). In setting the Budget and Precept, the council approved in full the recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee (minute R12/16 refers).

The total budget for 2017/18 includes a sum of £5,250 (i.e. the same level as in 2015/16 and 2016/17) for small grants and £37,000 (an increase by £15,000 of the level in 2016/17) for special grants. The increase in the allocation for special grants is to provide additional funding to the Wisbech and Fenland Museum.

Small Grants

The council has received a number of applications for funding from the small grants “pot” these are set out below.

	Organisation	Purpose of grant	Amount requested
1.	Girls Venture Corps Air Cadets, Wisbech	Contribution towards operational costs, uniforms camps etc	£300 (out of a total project cost of £393)
2.	Rose Fair - Museum Square Working Party	The cost of providing musical and other street entertainment on the Saturday of Rose Fair week	£700 (total cost of the project)
3.	Wisbech Music Society	Contribution towards the costs of musicians' fees, insurance, publicity for events etc	£200 (the full cost of the project)
4.	Richmond Fellowship Fenland Wellbeing Service	Contribution towards the costs of setting-up a pop-up café in the rural villages, offering peer support to those people who are unable to access services within the town of Wisbech	£500 (out of a total project cost of £2,000)
5.	Wisbech Tourism Development Group	Contribution towards the cost of producing an Around and About Wisbech leaflet for 2017/18	£396 for 10,000 leaflets or £536 for 15,000 leaflets (the full cost of the project)
6.	Wisbech and District Stroke Club	Contribution towards the costs of providing activities	£200

		and social support for stroke survivors and their carers	
7.	Wisbech and District Tenants Residents Association	Contribution towards the cost of assisting people in dealing with housing issues	£500
8.	Gorefield Bowls Club	Contribution towards the cost of installing an automatic sprinkler system for the bowling green	£1,000 (out of a total project cost of £3,223)
9.	Cambridgeshire Search and Rescue (CamSAR)	Contribution towards the cost of replacing/upgrading communications systems which are used when CamSAR is called upon by the Police to assist in a search for a vulnerable missing person	£300 (out of a total project cost of £15,000)
10.	Wisbech Library Friends	Contribution towards the cost of running 6 activity sessions during the summer holidays, to increase the participation by children in the Summer Reading Challenge	£466.80 (out of a total project cost of £707.60)
11.	Citizens Advice Rural Cambs	Contribution to support the cost of training 3 new volunteers	£1,500 (the full cost of the project)
	TOTAL		£6,062.80 (or £6,202.80)

All of the application forms received will be available at the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.

- The groups listed at 1 (£200), 2 (£750), 3 (£200) and 5 (£400) all received funding from Wisbech Town Council in 2016/17 (amounts shown in brackets).
- 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 former Resources Committee had decided previously that, as part of the grants consideration process, it wished to receive a presentation from a representative of each of the applying organisations in support of their applications. Although this option is still available to members, it may be best, once again, not to follow such a process this year, given the delay that this would cause to determination of the applications and the fact that a number of the organisations need to be able to commit funding to their projects in the very near future. It had been hoped by council officers that the application consideration and determination process could have taken place at an earlier date in the year but other workload issues "got in the way".

RECOMMENDATION

That members note the details of the small grant applications submitted to Wisbech Town Council for the financial year 2017/18 and decide which applications they wish to support at this time or the applicants from which they wish to receive a presentation in support of their applications.

Special Grants

Members are requested to allocate the special grants budget, which totals £37,000, for the financial year 2017/18.

The allocation of this budget in 2016/17 (which was set at £22,000) was as follows:

	Organisation/body	Funding allocation (£)
1.	Angles Theatre	1,000
2.	Citizens' Advice	1,000
3.	Wisbech Information Centre	5,000
4.	Wisbech and Fenland Museum	5,000
5.	Museum – Town Library	1,000
7.	Rose Fair	1,000
8.	Vivien Fire Engine Trust	500
9.	WisARD	500
10.	Wisbech in Bloom	2,500
11.	Wisbech Armed Forces Day	1,000
12.	Rose Fair – additional entertainment	750
13.	Wisbech Reads	1,000
14.	Wisbech Christmas Fayre	1,500
	TOTAL	21,750

- The funding listed at 1 to 10 above has been provided by Wisbech Town Council for a number of years – in effect, becoming a “standard list”. In 2016/17 the funding in relation to items 11 and 14 above was added to the “standard list”; it is assumed that this committee will wish to continue to provide that support.
- With regard to 12 above, this funding was met from the special grants “pot” in 2016/17 because of the fact that the applications for small grants funding exceeded the budget available and the then Resources Committee wished to be able to support this application (minute R13/15 refers). A similar small grants application has been received this year (see 2 in the list of applications for small grants).
- The funding provided to the Wisbech Reads project (listed at 13 above) was agreed at minute R22/14 through the approval of an application for a financial sum to contribute towards the annual operating costs of this project (including a launch event in July 2015).

The application submitted to the council in 2015 had sought funding at the level of £1,000 per annum for the five years period of the project.

Members, however, decided to approve funding for the first year initially. An application for funding for 2016/17, at the same level as in 2015/16, was submitted to the council. In

2016/17 the then Resources Committee decided that the Wisbech Reads project should continue to receive special grants funding (of £1,000 per annum) for the each of the remaining years of the project. The financial year 2017/18 will be the third year of the project; further funding would be provided in 2018/19 and 2019/20.

- Members will recall considering a request from the Directors of the Wisbech and Fenland Museum for Wisbech Town Council to increase, from £5,000 to £20,000 per annum, the level of grant aid provided to the museum, with effect from the financial year 2017/18. It was, consequently, recommended, as part of the budget-setting process for 2017/18, by the Policy and Resources Committee (minute R12/16 refers) and approved by Wisbech Town Council (minute 125/16 refers) that the special grants budget for 2017/18 be increased by £15,000 (from £22,000 to £37,000) to provide the additional funding.

Members may wish to consider whether the revised level of grant funding to the Wisbech and Fenland Museum should generate, say, the need for a Service Level Agreement between Wisbech Town Council and the Wisbech and Fenland Museum and/or for exploring the possibility of additional representation on the Management Committee of the Wisbech and Fenland Museum.

RECOMMENDATION

That members decide upon the allocation of the special grants budget for 2017/18.

Report author: Terry Jordan, Clerk to Wisbech Town Council