

# SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL

**Subject** : Community Grants - update and review of applications  
**Committee** : Communities Committee  
**Date** : 6 October 2025  
**Author** : Louise Webber - Head of Community Services

---

## 1. Report Summary:

- 1.1 This report outlines a proposed review of current procedures and processes for awarding community grants with the aim of improving transparency, reducing inefficiencies, increasing accessibility and bringing forward projects with a strong link to evidenced needs and issues which can clearly demonstrate outcomes and impact.
- 1.2 Councillors are requested to consider current applications for decision and the intended approach to future applications for 2026 onwards.

## 2. Background

2.1 New community priorities (2026-2029) will be identified by end December 2025 and, latterly taken to Full Council for adoption. These will set a clear direction for funding projects, which meet priorities gathered through evidenced community needs, provide value for money, demonstrate sound community development practice around community engagement and inclusion. This will have clear monitoring, evaluation and impact measures at the outset of each project.

2.2 Analysis of grants to date has highlighted repeat grant funding to a relatively small number of larger organisations who have the skill and capacity to apply for funding. This may be creating an unintended disadvantage for smaller organisations to access this funding support who have not applied to date. Further engagement and support work is needed to understand and mitigate against any such barriers including any follow up training on funding applications for emerging/smaller organisations.

2.3 There are current loopholes which present double funding risks for projects if any organisations do not declare that they have applied to other funding bodies for their projects. Additionally, there is a risk of duplication of SCC funding services which are currently commissioned by Wiltshire Council to be delivered locally by a different organisation. These risks can be understood and mitigated through closer collaboration, scrutiny and joint working with other local funding bodies, namely Wiltshire Community Foundation and Wiltshire Council (in relation to commissioned work and Area Board funding). Where possible, decision-making timelines across organisations could be dovetailed to provide surety to applicants where match funding is sought or highlight at this time any potential duplication or conflicts of interest.

2.4 Improving and streamlining current application and reporting processes will reduce duplication of effort and administrative burden. Grant applicants and recipient feedback on current forms are not fit for purpose. Applications may be submitted which are handwritten and online forms have formatting restrictions making completion more difficult and

therefore increasing potential omissions and errors from the applicant and subsequent administration and officer time spent following up incomplete submissions.

2.5. Development of additional scoring criteria to assist evaluation of applications will enhance consistency of approach and enable a more robust mechanism for making recommendations to councillors to improve decision-making processes considering limited resources.

### **3. Grant Applications update**

3.1 The annual budget for Community Development Grants is £25,000 for 2025/2026.

3.2 A late payment of £3000 for a 24/25 medium term grant paid after end of year leaving £22,000 remaining in the budget for allocation by this committee.

3.3 All grants are subject to the terms and eligibility criteria of the Salisbury City Council Grants Policy, which includes reporting of impact via the monitoring process.

3.4 Grants are eligible if they meet two of our seven Community Priorities:

3.4.1. Bringing Communities Together

3.4.2. Improving Opportunities for Young People

3.4.3. Improving Access to Active Lifestyles

3.4.4. Improving Understanding of, or Celebrating Marginalised Groups

3.4.5. Supporting People on Low Incomes

3.4.6. Improving People's Wellbeing

3.4.7. Creating a Greener City

## Current applications

Name of Organisation	Funds applied for	Recommendation
Kingdom Barbell Youth Development Programme	£3000	This application is brought forward for decision due to time sensitive delivery and match funding reasons- further information in background paper <b><i>Recommended for approval</i></b>
Wessex Archaeology Ltd	£3000	This application is brought forward for decision due to time sensitive delivery and match funding reasons- further information in background paper <b><i>Recommended for approval</i></b>
Families Out Loud	£2904	Awaiting further detail on WC commissioned services provided in Salisbury by Turning Point and follow up with Wiltshire Community Foundation <b><i>Recommendation- pause</i></b>
Folio Theatre	£3000	Duplication with SCC funded local creative youth development offer Does not offer clear value for money (4+ beneficiaries in Salisbury) <b><i>Recommendation- refusal</i></b>
Wildlife and Wellbeing	£3000	Application withdrawn - pending re-submission 2026
Corporate Jungle Impact CIC	£700	Application withdrawn

### 4. Recommendation:

That committee approve proposed process and procedure review.

That committee approve officer recommended application approvals and refusals.

**Wards Affected:** All

**Background papers:**

2 X Grant application summaries

**Implications:** Organisations refused funding may be affected and need to seek alternate funding or amend service offer to Salisbury.

**Financial:** None outside of the grant setting envelope.

**Legal:** None.

**Personnel:** None.

**Environmental Impact:** None.

**Equalities Impact Statement:** None.