

# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL DECISION RECORD

VERSION 7. JULY 2025

Reference Number: 184

Officer Completing the Form: Melissa Fletcher, Town Centre and Communities Manager

Lead Director: Cheryl Headon

Subject: Community Grants Programme Core Funding 2026-2027

**Details of Decision:** Please provide a brief explanation as to what decision was made, including any financial implications. This should be done in easy to understand, non-technical language - as this wording will appear on the website for the public to read. Also please remember all staff will be able to see this document.

**Healthy and Thriving Communities Fund grant awards for 2026/27 are as follows:**

Reference	Organisation	Total Grant Requested	Total Grant Award
HTCF26\100033	Home-Start Winchester & Districts	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
HTCF26\100014	Youth Options	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
HTCF26\100023	Winchester Youth Counselling	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
HTCF26\100012	Winchester Go LD	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
HTCF26\100019	Home Start Hampshire	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
HTCF26\100048	Carroll Centre	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
HTCF26\100028	Unit 12 CIC	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
HTCF26\100027	The Playhouse Foundation	£4,668.00	£0
HTCF26\100043	Winnall Rock School	£5,000.00	£0
HTCF26\100045	Trinity Winchester	£5,000.00	£0
HTCF26\100036	Naomi House and Jacksplace Hospices	£3,797.00	£0
HTCF26\100025	MUNCH	£3,017.00	£0
HTCF26\100040	Active LD CIC	£5,000.00	£0
HTCF26\100009	Winchester Radio	£5,000.00	£0
HTCF26\100018	The Hornbeam Hideout	£5,000.00	£0
HTCF26\100021	George's Rockstars	£5,000.00	£0
HTCF26\100031	Winchester Pregnancy Crisis Centre	£5,000.00	£0
HTCF26\100029	Meon Valley Lions Club	£1,850.00	£0
HTCF26\100034	Renew Well Being Winchester Ltd	£3,500.00	£0

## Strategic Fund direct awards of unrestricted funding are as follows:

	Organisation	Total grant award	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
1	Citizens Advice *	£585,000	£195,000	£195,000	£195,000
2	Play to the Crowd *	£441,000	£147,000	£147,000	£147,000
	<b>Total award:</b>	<b>£1,026,000</b>	<b>£342,000</b>	<b>£342,000</b>	<b>£342,000</b>

\* Includes a contribution from the Winchester Town Forum (subject to budget and CGR review post 2027)

### Type of Decision: (please tick. see reverse for definitions)

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Key Decision (Executive) & Subject to Call-In (see section 2A on reverse of this form) Note, these decisions are published on winchester.gov.uk |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Significant Operational Decision (see section 2B (1) on reverse of this form). Note, these decisions are published on winchester.gov.uk         |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Other Decisions to be Published (see section 2B (2) on reverse of this form) Note, these decisions are published on winchester.gov.uk           |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Administrative Decision (see section 3 on reverse of this form)   |

**Reason for the Decision:** *A brief overview of your reasons for taking this course of action.*

### **Background**

The core grant awards and performance agreements to voluntary organisations for the three-year period 2022-2025 came to an end on 31 March 2025.

The community grant programme was reviewed in detail as part of the TC25 programme and, in order to evaluate the grants process effectively, the award period was extended by a year with the extended funding period coming to an end on 31 March 2026. The programme review resulted in a reduction in the overall budget available for 2026/27.

Cabinet paper [CAB3494](#), 12 February 2025 awarded delegated authority to the Corporate Head of Economy & Community to allocate grants in consultation with the Cabinet member.

### **Healthy and Thriving Communities Fund - Application and evaluation process**

A new competitive core funding scheme for applicants called the Healthy and Thriving communities was created, shaped by Council Plan priorities, the new Thriving and Resilient Communities Strategy and approved health priorities. This is an impactful one-year operational / core grant funding programme for voluntary and community groups in the district, running from 1 April 2026 until 31 March 2027.

The Healthy and Thriving Communities fund was a competitive application process and the call for applications ran between 5 February and 26 February 2026. The fund was widely advertised in advance and promoted in various ways.

In total 27 applications were received, of which eight were from new applicants. Of the 27 applications, 8 were not eligible for scoring, due to unsubmitted documentation required at the point of application. The remaining 19 were evaluated by an officer panel headed by the Corporate Head of Economy & Community. Scores and weightings were applied based on the criteria shown in table 1.

**Table 1. Evaluation scoring**

	Criteria	Score	Weighting	Evaluation maximum
1.	Service delivery and track record	0-5	4	20%
2.	Service need and users	0-5	4	20%
3.	Outcomes	0-5	8	40%
4.	Partnership	0-5	2	10%
5.	Grant	0-5	2	10%

The top scoring seven applications were awarded funding of £5,000 each for one year (until 31 March 2027).

A grant agreement will be entered into with the support of legal for this one-year period, 1 April 2026-31 March 2027. As part of their funding agreement, they are required to submit added social value outcomes to demonstrate impact beyond the grant awarded.

### **Strategic Fund – direct award 2026 - 2029**

The Strategic Fund is a direct award for two organisations that the council deems to hold a unique position in the market, deliver a demographically and geographically wide coverage of support to the community and/or directly supports / increases the council's capacity to deliver its statutory duty. A level of funding has been identified that would allow this vital work to continue and also fit within the funding budget available.

The General Fund baseline has been allocated to the two strategic partners for the next three-year period, plus an additional £20,000 to each strategic partner for the year 2026/27 as a contribution from Winchester Town Forum. The Town Forum contribution from 2027/28 onwards will be a consideration for Winchester Town Parish Council, which will come into existence from 1 April 2027 as a result of the Community Governance Review currently being undertaken.

It should also be noted that the final year of the agreement (2028/29) will be subject to consideration by the new unitary authority as part of the budget setting process for its first year of operation.

A grant agreement will be entered into with each organisation for this three-year period: 1 April 2026 until 31 March 2029.

**Table 2: Sources of Funding for Healthy & Thriving Communities Fund & Strategic partners**

	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
General Fund: Strategic fund	£342,000	£342,000	£342,000
Town Forum: Strategic fund	£40,000	£40,000*	£40,000*
General fund: HTC - Healthy & Thriving Communities Fund	£35,000	£35,000	£35,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£417,000</b>	<b>£417,000*</b>	<b>£417,000*</b>

*\*Town Forum contribution will be a consideration for Winchester Town Parish Council as a result of the Community Governance Review*

**Alternative Options Considered & Rejected:** *All alternative options considered need to be outlined here. Please include detail of any representations received. This will include your response to any alternatives suggested by those making representation and the reasons why these alternatives were rejected.*

Within the reduced budget, consideration was given to distributing the funding across more organisations. However, it was agreed that those organisations who passed the finance test with a quality threshold of over two thirds of the total available score were prioritised for their full funding request of £5,000. It was felt that this would enable organisations to provide more impactful outcomes with our funding over a one-year period.

Therefore, distributing the funding to more organisations was rejected on this occasion.

**Supporting Information:** *If your decision relates to delegated authority derived from a specific Committee resolution, please confirm the name of the Committee, the date of the meeting and paste the resolution into this box.*

Authority to offer the grant awards:

Cabinet at its meeting on 12 February 2025 agreed the following recommendations

13. Delegation of authority to the Corporate Head of Economy and Community, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Business and Culture, to devise and agree:

a. The Community and Voluntary Sector grant programme funding criteria, detailed outcomes, application processes and assessments and the allocation of grants.

**Background papers:**

[CAB3494](#) - General Fund budget 25-26.pdf

[WTF342](#) - Winchester Town Account Budget

Council: [26 February 2026](#) – approved the council budget

An Equalities Impact Assessment of the awards was undertaken and identified no potential for discrimination.

**Declared Officer and/or Member interests:** *List any conflict of interest declared by any Cabinet Member who was consulted by the officer which relates to the decision and, in respect of any declared conflict of interest, any note of dispensation granted by the Monitoring Officer.*

No conflict of interest to record

Departmental Review			
Legal review:	<i>Tick this box to confirm legal team have reviewed proposed decision</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Karen Murphy</i>
Finance review:	<i>Tick this box to confirm finance team have reviewed proposed decision</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Darren Kennedy</i>
Other review:	<i>Tick this box to confirm any other departmental review of proposed decision (and specify department)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	n/a
Public Sector Equality Duty:	<i>Tick this box to confirm you have considered the PSED requirements (see section 4 on reverse of this form)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Steve Lincoln</i>

**PTO**

**Are the details of the decision open or exempt?**

Open

Part Exempt. Please expand

Exempt. Please expand

**Decision Taker (name):** *This needs to be the specific Officer or Cabinet Member who holds the delegation within the constitution/or referred to by a committee*

**Susan Robbins**

**Decision Taker  
(Signature):**

**Date:26/03/26**



**Call In dates (key decisions only) and Implementation date:**

Commencement of call in: (date)	Click here to enter a date. <i>(Please refer to Dem Services for this)</i>
Last date for call in: (date)	Click here to enter a date. <i>(Please refer to Dem Services for this)</i>
Planned Implementation Date:	Click here to enter a date.