

Suggested enhancements to Thatcham Town Council's grant giving:

A. Current options:

1. Small Grant Scheme [up to £250]

- Managed in-house
- Simple application form
- Considered at next available RCA or FCGP
- Funding provided swiftly after approval
- Funded from Community Project Fund Earmarked Reserve [current balance £6,308]

2. Community Grant Scheme

- Managed via The Good Exchange (www.thegoodexchange.com)
- TTC grants matched by Greenham Trust, up to £17,000 total per year
- Applicants have to register and complete an online application
- The Good Exchange requires monitoring and evaluation reports

B. Suggested enhancements:

Continue to provide the Small Grant Scheme and Community Grants Scheme as detailed above, but consider the following in addition:

1. Neighbourhood Grants - 1 neighbourhood project per year

Neighbourhoods come together and submit a proposal to enhance their vicinity, up to £2,000. If supported, project is undertaken by TTC (with appropriate third-party authority as needed) to eliminate need for safeguarding of funds, insurance, VAT etc.

Applications considered by the Grants Sub-Committee.

Promotes community cohesion / ownership / pride. Engages residents with their Council and local community.

Annual budget required: £2,000. Could be funded from CIL receipts, dependant on proposal.

2. Councillor Allocation - £1,000 per Councillor, per year

Councillors can use on individual projects in their Ward, or 'pool' allocation with fellow Councillor/s.

Expenditure authorised by Town Clerk, in line with adopted guidelines.

Raises profile of Council / Councillors. Supports Councillors aspirations to make a difference.

Annual budget required: £18,000. Could be funded from CIL receipts, dependant on proposal.

3. Super Grant / Public Vote

Allow the public to vote on a 'Super Grant' of £5,000, awarded to a large-scale project that will benefit Thatcham residents.

For example: hospital equipment.

Applications must be processed via The Good Exchange, to benefit from matched funding (thereby receiving £10,000).

Annual budget required: £5,000. Funded from the existing £17,000 budgeted for Community Grant Scheme.

C. Small Grant Scheme enhancement:

Annual 'theme' to encourage applications for: sport, environment, health and wellbeing etc

D. Additional improvements

- **Mayoral visits to grant recipient projects**
- **More publicity about grants awarded**
- **Ensure we receive evaluation reports**

E. Budget implications

Current:

Small Grants Scheme	From EMR
Community Grants Scheme	£17,000
TOTAL	£17,000

Potential:

Small Grants Scheme	From EMR (but will need topping up at some point)
Community Grants Scheme	£17,000 (maximise matched funding offer)
Super Grant	£0.00 (included in Community Grants Scheme budget)
Neighbourhood Grant	£2,000 (could be funded from CIL)
Councillor Allocation	£18,000
TOTAL	£37,000