

ITEM 8 – COUNCIL GRANTS POLICY REVIEW

Following the request from Full Council for the Council Matters Committee to set up a Council Grants Process Task and Finish Group, a meeting was held on Wednesday 2nd July 2025 attended by Cllrs Auletta, Beavis, Bennett, Peters and Presswell with the Town Clerk and Governance and Projects Manager present.

There was discussion about:

- The process that has been used to date and publicity of the dates when applications must be received by to local organisations.
- The amount of officer time involved in collating the material.
- The amount of Councillor time required to go through the applications and supporting documents before Committee. The Committee itself is intense given the large number of applications to be considered alongside other Council Matters Committee business.
- The upcoming Totnes Community Sector/Organisation Audit - basing any review of the grant funding process and how best to support community organisations would be best placed once the findings of this work has been delivered.
- The idea of allocating emergency funding, but the complexities in how this could be managed in a fair and equitable way.
- The 2025 budget allocated for council grants (£30K) has been committed – any further funding will need to be identified from in-year underspend.
- Through the Councillor sharepoint, all members have sight of the application summary sheet and folders that contains information of the five applications received after the deadline had closed should they wish to find out more detail.

The Task and Finish Group **RECOMMENDS** to Full Council that there is no further allocation of funding at this time, and that this is reviewed when the Community Audit has concluded in the autumn.