

## OFFICER DECISION RECORD SHEET

**Name of decision maker: Diane Southam**

**Service Area: Place, Communities & Enterprise**

**Title of Decision:**

To approve Community Grants for the Spring 23-24 round

**Decision made and reasons:**

**To make grants to the following organisations for the Spring 2023-24 round of bidding:**

1. *Trim Tots: The Virtual Visitor Project:* Funding for schools to participate in the creation of a UV underwater scene featuring 'Omega Always' the mermaid to be showcased at Hemel Old Town Hall, Watford, and featured as a video at Planet Munch Puppets YouTube channel. £3000
2. *Herts Vision Loss: Vital Eyes:* Funding for a wellbeing programme for visually impaired residents to include mindfulness sessions, Pilates/yoga, information workshops, outings and excursions. £3000

**Small Grants:**

1. *Hemel Hawks:* Funding for equipment to help train the youth football team. £500
2. *Berkhamsted Bowls Club:* Funding to commission a mural at the club. £500
3. *Berkhamsted Arts Society:* Funding for materials for a clay project. £250
4. *Raise:* Funding towards the cost of an Interventional Radiology Scanner £500
5. *St Bartholomew's School:* Instillation of bird and bat boxes for the gardening club. £300
6. *Langley House:* a new Hoover to keep the accommodation clean. £90

**Reports considered:**

n/a

**Officers/Councillors/Ward Councillors/Stakeholders Consulted:**

Officers on the grants panel present:

Fraser Willcox, Economic Development Officer  
Fay Murphy, Assistant Accountant, Finance  
Darren Flanagan, Accountant, Finance  
Annie Foster, Community Partnerships Officer  
Joe Guiton, Community Safety and Children's Services Team Leader  
Alex Care, Community Partnerships and Wellbeing Team Leader

## OFFICER DECISION RECORD SHEET

**Financial Comments:**

Fay Murphy gave detailed comments to each application on the grants portal and scored each application. The comments and scores are written on the grants portal for staff. The Finance officer also approved the applications.

**Deputy Monitoring Officer Comments:**

Under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to incur expenditure, which in its opinion is in the interest of and will bring direct benefit to its area or any part of it or all or some of its residents.

Further to section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 a local authority has the power to make grants to voluntary organisations providing recreational facilities.

**Deputy S151 Officers Comments:**

The cost of the grant awards is within the approved budget levels.

**Implications:**

**Value for Money:** The community grants helps voluntary and community organisations with projects that benefit the local community. Each application considered is scrutinised by Finance and other officers to ensure value for money. Each organisation awarded a grant must provide a written report of the project within 12 months of receipt of funds.

**Financial:** The community grant pot is protected for allocating to community and voluntary organisations and the budget is allocated for the 2020/21 financial year

**Risk:** If we did not fund these community projects through the community grant scheme, they may not be able to go ahead.

**Officer Signature:**

Diane Southam

**Date – 27 June 2023**