

Annual allocation of funds to external organisations

1. Purpose of Report

To consider the process of allocating recurring budgets to external organisations.

2. Background

Currently, budget is granted to third-party organisations without any annual application process. In 2025, this includes £13k for Youth Provision and £10k for Town Team, both of which are viewed as recurring budget items, reviewed and agreed upon by MTC during annual budgeting, other recipients of MTC annual funding include;

- Carnival
- Twinning Association
- Malmesbury School German Exchange

The current process does not require beneficiaries to:

- submit/share any plans for what they intend to do with the allotted money each year
- share any insight into their current financial position (income/expenditure)
- or share any insight into their specific annual objectives (though it may be assumed that broad organisational objectives are known due to historical relations with MTC).

Following allocation of budget, MTC does not currently receive any formal ongoing updates on the spending of funds, or the progress made by the beneficiary towards objectives. Reports received into relevant MTC committees are largely operational in nature.

For example, the latest RISE report states how many young people were engaged by the group each week. While useful insight, this offers no indication of whether engagement is 'on target', and MTC have no insight into RISE's objectives or current strategy for increasing youth engagement

Consideration should be given to defining a more structured and documented application and reporting process for beneficiaries of MTC's budget. This would enable closer working relationships between MTC and beneficiaries on shared goals (youth community engagement, town promotion, etc), including alignment on objectives for MTC funds, increased transparency, and a strong foundation for potential budget increases.

It is possible that groups/beneficiaries may require MTC input/support to define relevant and specific objectives. This should be encouraged as it would enable closer working relationships between MTC and groups with which we have

significant shared interests. A formalised process for requesting funds and reporting on their use and value would drive this positive behaviour change.

3. Financial Implications & Risks

Establishing a process for the allocation of funds to third-party organisations will provide greater transparency over Council spending.

Closer working practices with third-party organisations should improve our efficiency in achieving joint objectives and may lead to future savings.

4. Proposal

- A. That MTC develop a process for external organisations to follow when engaging with us, with the support of relevant committees and Town Clerk to ensure regular updates/reporting are maintained. The process should be as simple as possible to minimise unnecessary paperwork.
- B. The process is developed in time for implementation during the 2026/27 budgeting period.

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