

Recommendation of Community Grants Panel of 16 February 2022

On 16 February 2022 the Community Grants panel met to hear the 26 eligible applications to the councils Revenue Grants Scheme 2022-2024.

The scheme was heavily oversubscribed, requesting £1,942,306 against an available budget of £667,992. Once all presentations from registered speakers and applications had been heard, committee passed a motion to:

To agree for further discussion to take place between officers and members, and for a final recommendation to be presented at the next meeting of the Community Grants Panel.'

A meeting was held in the afternoon between officers and panel members to discuss any further points heard from speakers in the morning, agree the scores and make final award recommendations.

During the public session, the panel heard from a representative of SOFEA, who requested a reduction in their grant from £250,000 to £150,000 and removal of some aspects of the project thereby changing the proposal.

The panel considered the options allowed by the policy and received advice from officers, for such sizeable and material changes to an existing bid, without notice and the impact on the overall grants programme. The panel reluctantly voted to exclude the SOFEA bid based on having significant concerns about the material change to the bid and the financial viability of the project.

In line with the policy, all applications in the high priority received 100 per cent of their request. If there is any budget left after all the high priority applications have been awarded, then the medium priority applications receive funding. Those scoring medium priority all received a minimum award of £10,000 and a proportionate distribution of the remaining funds, based on the assessed score. Those scoring low priority did not receive funding.

Name of organisation	Assessed Score	Requested Grant Amount	Assessed Priority (Based on Assessed Score)	Award %	Proposed Award Amount
Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice	40	£238,444	High	100.00%	£238,444
Riverside Counselling	38	£175,792	Med-High	20.23%	£45,568
Thomley	40	£70,000	High	100.00%	£70,000
Didcot Train	36	£74,868	Med-High	20.23%	£25,148
Oxfordshire Association for the blind	36	£80,207	Med-High	20.23%	£26,228
Community First Oxfordshire	36	£42,000	Med-High	20.23%	£18,498
Sofea	38	£250,000	Med-High	20.23%	£0
Nomad	34	£50,000	Med-Med	10.12%	£15,058
My Life My Choice	34	£31,548	Med-Med	10.12%	£13,192
The Abingdon Bridge	39	£120,000	Med-High	20.23%	£34,279
Style Acre	35	£44,250	Med-Med	10.12%	£14,477
The Maple Tree	33	£25,760	Med-Med	10.12%	£12,606
Earth Trust	33	£82,371	Med-Med	10.12%	£18,333
The Berin Centre	32	£44,892	Med-Med	10.12%	£14,541
Home Start- South Oxfordshire	30	£63,798	Med-Med	10.12%	£16,454
Wild Oxfordshire	31	£30,000	Med-Med	10.12%	£13,035
Sue Ryder	28	£110,000	Med-Low	6.07%	£16,677
Chiltern Centre Ltd	28	£50,220	Med-Low	6.07%	£13,048
Be Free Young Carers	28	£37,516	Med-Low	6.07%	£12,277
Millstream Day Centre	27	£25,000	Med-Low	6.07%	£11,517
Oxfordshire Play Association	26	£44,000	Med-Low	6.07%	£12,671
Berinsfield Information and Volunteer Centre	25	£21,648	Med-Low	6.07%	£11,314
River Thame Conservation Trust	22	£76,224	Med-Low	6.07%	£14,627
Makespace Oxford	21	£92,000	Low	0.00%	
Chinnor Village Centre	19	£25,768	Low	0.00%	
Thame Players	19	£36,000	Low	0.00%	
Total Budget spent					£667,992

The committee's recommended awards (as listed above) will be presented to the Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing, and in consultation with Head of Service for Policy and Programmes, will consider the grant panel's recommendations when determining the revenue grant awards for 2022-24.