



TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

Item 16 – Town Council 17th Feb
2020

TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT TO TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT AUTHOR	Colin Hill Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
TEL NO	01706 548135
EMAIL	townclerk@todmorden-tc.gov.
Date	17th February 2021
SUBJECT	Covid Discretionary Fund

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To remind Members that following comment from external auditors, it was agreed that the remaining balance of a bank account entitled “British Cotton Growers Fund” be distributed in this financial year and Members agreed to focus the benefit of this funding on matters relating to Covid 19.
2. To enable speedy distribution, delegated powers were extended to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chair of Resources.
3. To advise that of the original balance transferred of £3,651.41, £2,850 has been distributed already, with an additional £300 in principle committed to Healthy Minds - see Appendix 1.
4. There remains a balance of £501.41 to be distributed and an approach has been made for an award of £500 to support the running costs of the Old Library in Cornholme to continue their valuable work as a food drop-in centre in in one of the most economically and socially deprived parts of Todmorden - see Appendix 2.
5. To advise Members that in addition to this Covid Discretionary Fund, the Town Council has also established an Earmarked Reserve of £5,000, with the intention to once the discretionary fund has been depleted, to still be able to consider assistance of this nature.
6. To recommend that an award of £501.41 be made to Cornholme Old Library as the last disbursement under this discretionary fund and to seek Members views as to whether to supplement this by drawdown of an element of the Earmarked Reserve.

BACKGROUND AND CONSIDERATIONS

7. Members of the Emergency Committee considered the “British Cotton Growers” fund on 6th May 2020 – see Appendix 3 and Resolved as follows: -

“That Members of the Emergency Committee authorise the redesignation of this fund from British Cotton Growers Fund to one entitled Covid 19 fund.

That Members of the Emergency Committee authorise that a Covid 19 budget heading be established within the Town Council accounts on an imprest account basis and that funds currently held in an account entitled British Cotton Growers be transferred in full to the Town Council current bank account to enable subsequent distribution.

That Members of the Emergency Committee authorise that Members agree to Terms of Reference and a Scheme of Delegation as detailed in Appendix 1.

That Members of the Emergency Committee authorise that all funds emanating from this source will be distributed within this financial year.

That Members of the Emergency Committee authorise that Members ratify the urgent decision made to donate £500 to the Cornholme Food Bank.”

8. Whilst there is no limit in terms of delegated powers up to the balance of the fund remaining, in practice no individual award has been made above £500 to provide a fair opportunity for several awards to be considered.
9. Whilst the approach for this final award would normally be approved under such delegated powers, the Chair of Resources is now a Director of this non-profit limited company and therefore declares an interest.
10. The Community Foundation for Calderdale has agreed a rent 'holiday' and since September £5,000 in funding from central Govt has been secured with the Directors working in partnership with St Mary's Todmorden to offer a food drop-in specifically for Cornholme residents.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11. The remaining balance of £501.41 is available for distribution in this financial year.
12. An Earmarked Reserve of £5,000 is available for use for further approaches for assistance and or use to award further funds to this cause, should Members wish to do so - which would be taken within our Section 137 use of “Free Resource”.

RECOMMENDATION

13. That Member approve an award of £501.41 subject the Clerk’s satisfaction as to the non-profit status of the organisation.
14. That Members give consideration as to whether they wish at this stage to drawdown on the Earmarked Reserve to supplement this award.
15. That should Members decide to draw on the Earmarked Reserve, a new revenue budget is established accordingly and that delegated powers be continued.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

16. Whilst delegated powers are in place, the Chairman of Resources has a conflict of interest in his role as Trustee.
17. Town Council approval is required for use of Earmarked Reserves

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

18. None arising from this report.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION:

19. None arising from this report.

CLIMATE CHANGE:

20. None arising from this report.

IMPACT EQUALITY ASSESSMENT

21. None arising from this report.

SUPPORTING PAPERS:

22. Appendix 1 - Schedule of awards made under Covid Discretionary Fund
- Appendix 2 - Cornhole Old Library application letter
- Appendix 3 - Report dated 6th May 2020 to Emergency Committee.

FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: Colin Hill