

Policy and Resources Committee

Date:	22 January 2013
Title:	Grant Awards Policy
Purpose of the Report:	Amendment to policy to include revenue funding for the Citizens Advice Bureau.
Contact Officer:	Cassie Pinnells, Community Services Manager

Background

The grant awards policy (Appendix A attached) currently states that “Applications are not to be considered from ‘upward funders’, i.e. local groups whose fund-raising is sent to central headquarters for redistribution.” Applications requesting funding for revenue costs such as staff time and assistance with rent payments are not favoured.

The Thame Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) is in the process of restructuring its administration to provide a better and more efficient delivery of service and would benefit from having a financial commitment from the Council. Members recognise the importance of the services the CAB offer to the residents of Thame, particularly with the current financial constraints and extensive changes to the benefit system.

This Committee agreed an interim measure to support revenue funding for the CAB for the next two years, with any future long term commitment from the Council requiring additional information on the level of revenue funding required to enable budgets to be set based on an agreed figure.

As such the grant awards policy has been amended to incorporate the interim funding requirement. CAB revenue funding requests will go through the normal grant panel application process to assess the amount requested against Council budgets.

Risk Assessment

<i>Risks</i>	<i>Controls</i>
<i>Public money spent outside the parish – Services offered are reallocated</i>	<i>Business plan provided monitored by the Grant Panel</i>

Resource Appraisal

The funding for grants is considered as part of the budget setting process for the revenue cost each year.

Legal Powers: Local Government Act 1972 s137 – Expenditure for which there is no statutory power.

Where no specific grant making power exists in other legislation, and where, in the Council's opinion, the grant will benefit its area or any of its inhabitants, the Local Government Act 1972 section 137 empowers a local council to make grants to voluntary bodies, charities and disaster appeal funds. Grants awarded against section 137 have spending restraints which must be proportionate/benefit 90% of the population they serve.

Recommendation:

The Committee is recommended:

- i) ***To adopt the amended policy.***