

ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL Proposal: Second Round of Annual Grants 2026/27 – Winter Warm Hubs and Winter Community Activities

Proposed by: Cllr Caroline Ball
Meeting date: 22nd June 2026

Proposal

That the Council uses any underspend in this year's Annual Grants budget, arising from the Grant Funding Working Group's recommendations, to reopen the Annual Grants fund for a one-off second round.

The second round would have a specific focus: **winter warm hubs and winter community activities**, with awards capped at **£2,000 per project**. Priority will be given to organisations that have not applied in the first round – including those that had no projects in the pipeline at the time simply due to the funding cycle – but previous applicants are not excluded from applying with projects within the call-out.

I want to be clear with Members and with the community that this is a one-off opportunity arising from the availability of funds this year. It creates no expectation of a second round in future years.

Timetable

Decisions would be made in late August/September, so that funding can be distributed in time for projects to start in October, ahead of the winter period.

Recommendation

That Council resolves to reopen the Annual Grants fund for a one-off second round for 2026/27, funded from the £10,000 underspend in the Annual Grants budget, focused on winter warm hubs and winter community activities, with awards capped at £2,000 per project; priority to be given to organisations that have not applied in the first round, with previous applicants not excluded from applying with projects within the call-out; applications to be assessed and decided in late August/September for distribution by October; and the round to be administered by the Executive Officer under the existing Grant Awards Policy.