

Allotment Funding Agreement between Okehampton Town Council and Okehampton United Charities

Background

Town and parish councils must consider any written request to provide allotments if requested by six or more electors in accordance with Section 23 of the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 which places an obligation on the council to provide a sufficient number of allotment gardens. Both Okehampton Town (OTC) and Hamlets Parish Council's (OHPC) would need to consider the provision of allotments for their respective residents if there were none available within the respective parishes.

Allotments in Okehampton for use by residents of both the town and surrounding hamlets are provided and maintained by Okehampton United Charities (OUC), removing the obligation from OTC and OHPC.

Existing Situation

Historically the OTC and OHPC have considered provision of funding the cost of the maintenance of the allotments by OUC annually through the Grant Policy, each Council being requested to award a grant based on the percentage of electorate, figures provided by WDBC annually, for the respective areas.

Details of grant funding awarded in recent years is as follows:

Year	Grant Awarded	Comments
2018-19	£ 1,102.84	
2019-20	£ 5,650.00	Provision of raised beds
2021-22	£ 1,638.66	
2022-23	£ 1,988.63	

Funding Agreement

Because of the statutory requirement of Section 23 of the 1908 Act, OTC agrees to continue to reimburse the OUC for the general maintenance and running costs of the allotments annually in February/March without the need for a grant application to be submitted, subject to the following:

1. Receipt of a formal written request detailing the expenditure along with a copy of the last published accounts
2. Reimbursement of expenses will be provided on the same financial basis as previously agreed; that being the respective percentage of the total number of electorate in both the parishes of OTC and OHPC, (figures provided annually by WDBC).
3. Any request for reimbursement of allotment related expenses over and above that of normal running costs are to be separately accounted for, for consideration by the Policy & Resources Committee.

OTC will set aside an amount annually (previous figure + 20%) within its Grant Budget to cover the cost of the provision of allotments by OUC as set out above. Should the amount requested for reimbursement be over and above this amount, and there is insufficient funding left within the Grant Budget, the additional amount will be paid from the Grant Budget in the following financial year.

This will not preclude any other grant applications during the year

This agreement will be reviewed at least every five years.

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