

Committee: FULL COUNCIL

Date: 19 March 2023

Title: Food Bank

Purpose of Report

For Members to consider continuing support of the Food Bank.

Recommendation:

Members to resolve to continue to support the Food Bank by donating £125.00 of agreed products per month for the financial year 2024-2024.

Background:

1. In 2020/21, the Covid pandemic resulted in an increase of local people requiring assistance in a variety of forms due to loss of jobs or being furloughed.
2. At the Town Council Meeting on 5th May 2020, Minute No.757 Motion under Standing Order No.9 the resolution was:

***RESOLVED** to put an emergency funding scheme in place to support the Town Council's local response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic by making virements to both the 2019/20 and 2020/21 budgets.*

3. At the Town Council Meeting on 21st June 2022, a further report was taken to the Full Council to seek support at a time of increasing costs to support the Food Bank. As a result a resolution was passed Minute No.2022-061-TC to:

***RESOLVED** unanimously to support the Food Bank by donating £100.00 of cleaning products per month.*

4. At the Town Council Meeting on 25th April 2023, a further report was taken to the Full Council to seek support at a time of increasing costs to support the Food Bank. As a result a resolution was passed Minute No 2023-0017-TC to:

***RESOLVED** unanimously to continue to support the Food Bank by donating up to £125 per month for the financial year 2023-2024.*

5. The Town Council have a Community Resilience budget of **£10,000** within **Budget Heading 382/3** for 2024/25

Report

6. In March 2023, the co-ordinator of the Food Bank sent in a report which can be seen in **Appendix 17A**. It describes how the food bank operates alongside a food share initiative.

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7. It also details how the numbers of people requiring assistance has increased particularly over the past few months due to the rising cost of living.
8. The coordinator had described how the level of public support is still there but, in her submission at the Annual Community Assembly held on 18th April thanking the Town Council for their support, she highlighted that there has been a reduction in the amount being donated to the Food Bank.
9. It was also pointed out that not only are people in need of help with food donations, but also with general household cleaning items, which the council has been assisting with recently.
10. Now that the Town Council due to commence their new financial year, it is an appropriate time for Members to consider whether they wish to continue supporting the Food Bank on a monthly basis for the forthcoming Financial Year 2024-25
11. The Members may choose to support the Food Bank by donating a value of goods equivalent to £125 on a monthly basis or propose another resolution.

Vicky Freeman
Administration Officer
March 2024