



LAVERSTOCK & FORD PARISH COUNCIL

Finance & General Purposes Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday 4 March 2025

Agenda Item: FGP25.018

Subject:	Grant application spending powers
Prepared by:	Gale Pettifer, Parish Clerk
Purpose of Report:	To consider amendments to the spending powers of previous grant applications in 2024/25.
Background:	In the Pre Year End Internal Audit Observations 2023-24 it was noted that: Council regularly states S137 as the powers under which grants are made. It is not clear that the Council has complied with S137A in respect of grants over £2,000. In a number of instances it appears the powers other than S137 could be used to award these grants. The auditor's recommendations were that the Council to should review the legal powers under which it is awarding grants and ensure that S137 is only used where other appropriate powers are not available. It was also recommended that the Council note the additional legal requirements under S137A in respect of high value grants.
Key Points:	A review of the grant applications 2024/25 was undertaken and the following grant applications require their spending powers to be amended. <u>15 April 2024: 24.045 Grant Applications</u> - Devenish Bradshaw Charitable Trust - application for funds towards their Sensory Project. £2,000 was awarded under the powers granted by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 To be amended to: Public Health Act 1875 s.164. <i>[Power to support or contribute to the support of public walks or pleasure grounds provided by any person whomsoever.]</i> - Old Sarum and Longhedge Community Centre - application for funds towards the Centre Manager's salary. £5,000 was awarded under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 To be amended to: Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 1976, s.19. <i>[Power to provide buildings for use of clubs having athletic, social or educational objectives – inc. staff.]</i> <u>16 December 2024: PC24.150 Grant Funding Application</u> - Old Sarum and Longhedge Community Centre – application for funds towards the Centre Managers salary up to the end of March 2025. £5000 was awarded to Old Sarum and Longhedge Community Centre under the powers granted by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. (To pay £3315 immediately and the balance to be paid at the Clerks discretion following confirmation of costs incurred for any handover period.)



	To be amended to: Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 1976, s.19. <i>[Power to provide buildings for use of clubs having athletic, social or educational objectives – inc. staff.]</i> The following grants have no other spending power available, other than S137. <u>15 April 2024: 24.045 Grant Applications</u> - Old Sarum and Longhedge Community Centre - application for funds towards operating the Pantry. £5400 to Old Sarum and Longhedge Community Centre towards the Pantry costs under the powers granted by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. To remain as: Local Government Act 1972, s.137 [Power to incur expenditure not otherwise authorised on anything which in the council's opinion is in the interests of the area or part of it or all or some of the inhabitants.] <u>15 July 2024: 24.103 Grant Requests</u> - Old Sarum & Longhedge Community Centre Breakfast Club - application for funds to run activities at Breakfast Club during the summer holidays. £600 was awarded to Old Sarum and Longhedge Community Centre under the powers granted by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 To remain as: Local Government Act 1972, s.137 [Power to incur expenditure not otherwise authorised on anything which in the council's opinion is in the interests of the area or part of it or all or some of the inhabitants.]
Implications	Compliance – the suggested amendments comply with the recommendations of the internal audit.
Recommendation	To recommend to Full Council that the amendments to spending powers of grants awarded in 2024/25 be approved.