

BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL
Community Development Committee
9th September 2025
Food Bank Donation

Recommendation

The Committee RESOLVE to make a further donation of £5,000 to the Food Bank, and that a further review takes place in 6 months' time.

Ward

All

Risk Management

There is a budget provision for the distribution of community grants to various organisations. There is a legal power under s137 of the Local Government Act to cover this expenditure.

Objective

To support worthy organisations within the Town by giving financial help after consideration of any application submitted.

Report

It was previously agreed at the Community Development Committee, 13 February 2024, to make a regular 6 monthly payment of £5k, to the Blyth Food Bank subject to ongoing review.

Monitoring visits have since taken place in September 2024 and February 2025, in line with the Committee's decision. Following these visits the committee agreed to further payments of £5,000.

The most recent visit was carried out in August 2025 where this confirms that the Food Bank continues to provide an essential service within the community.

While overall referrals dipped slightly last year, demand remains significant and has recently begun to increase again. Referrals are received from a wide range of agencies as well as through self-referrals. They are predominantly from single-person households. Patterns of demand fluctuate during the year, with peaks around key holiday periods.

The Food Bank has faced rising costs, with expenditure increasing and reserves reduced following essential improvements and training. Public

AGENDA ITEM 4.1

donations have also fallen, though efforts are being made to encourage contributions.

The Food Bank continues to deliver a vital service to the community. The Committee's established approach of providing 6-monthly support through a £5,000 donation remains appropriate. This recommendation is informed by monitoring visits and the latest reports provided by the Food Bank.

It is also noted that the Blyth Food Bank has applied for the second round of Community Grants to the amount of £5,000.

Jessica Campbell
Community and Communications Officer
2nd September 2025