

**BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Community Development Committee**  
**13 February 2024**

**Food Bank Donation**

**Recommendation**

**The Committee RESOLVE to agree: to make a regular 6 monthly donation of £5,000 to the Food Bank until further notice.**

Ward

All

Risk Management

There is a budget each year for the distribution of community grants to various organisations. In the current year there is sufficient headway to enable a payment to be made. There is a legal power under s137 of the Local Government Act to cover this expenditure. The amount of money that can be spent under Section 137 is capped and is usually set annually in line with inflation. This means Councils cannot endlessly spend under this provision; they must be judicious about its use. The 2023/24 limit is £9.93 per electorate.

Objective

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

Report

Discussions have taken place regarding the current economic situation and the effect on the population of the town. Blyth is an area of social deprivation and is feeling the effects more than most. Many families are having difficulties making ends meet and unfortunately this can mean that they cannot feed themselves adequately.

Food Banks have been established in the last few years because of this situation and do good work distributing parcels of food to needy families that need support.

It is suggested that a more direct intervention is taken by the council to bolster the ability of the Food Bank to meet the current situation by giving them a financial contribution of £5,000 every six months until it is reviewed further. This can be done under the power authorised by the LG Act 1972 s 137.

**Joseph Hughes**  
**Town Clerk**

**6 February 2024**