

**BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Community Development Committee**  
**18 February 2024**  
**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.

This was based upon the current economic situation and the effect on the population of the town. The Food Bank continues to provide an essential service and a visit has recently taken place (3 February 2025) in line with the Committee's decision.

From the information received the numbers of referrals are slightly increased to those of last year and there is now a greater dependency on the Food Bank having to purchase more products, due to the level of donations reducing. The Food Bank is currently spending between £1,500 and £2,000 per month on food to meet need in the town. A detailed monthly analysis has been provided. The also have premises maintenance costs to meet. This will therefore have a knock-on effect on the financial reserves.

The Food Bank are continually monitoring the reserves to ensure that they can continue providing this essential service.

**Stephen Humphrey**  
**Principal Officer**

**10 February 2025**