

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Questions to Portfolio Holders

Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Monday 18 March 2024

Question received from Councillor Salt:

Q1. *“Can the Portfolio Holder outline the improved cost of living grant funding pot for local groups, including what projects it could potentially support? I'd be keen to know whether cafes that provide free food and drinks from churches outside of formal worship will be able to apply for this new funding stream as they were excluded from the previous fund?”*

Response from Councillor B Cawley – Portfolio Holder for Communities:-

The Council established the Staffordshire Moorlands Community Fund to provide match funding to organisations that are providing vital support for those who are most affected by the cost-of-living crisis. Community groups of all forms are eligible but need to demonstrate a contribution to at least one of the objectives within the corporate plan and provide at least one-third match funding.

It is standard practice across the public sector to not extend funding to religious activities or political organisations. This approach is followed, for example, by the national network of community foundations and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This exclusion captures activities of a religious nature but would not include activities such as running a foodbank from a church hall that is open to all.