7 (a)

Andover Town Council

To receive and approve a project scope for a community initiative - Community Chef

From budget line: Youth Services (4700/26) on this occasion as pilot is aimed at young families.

Indicative costs: £4,951.90

(includes delivery of project £4651.90 and estimated cost of hall hire £300)

Produced for: Community & Events Committee

By: Community and Events Officer

Date of Report: 19 January 2026

Recommendation to Community and Events Committee:

1. **Approve** the Community Cookery Project.
2. **Allocate** funding of £4951.90 from Youth Services (4700/26) budget line, on this occasion as the pilot is aimed at families with children. to cover costs.
3. **Authorise** officers to organise and deliver the pilot project in collaboration with MUNCH C.I.C., and report back to Community and Events Committee on progress.
4. **Report** back to Full Council

Legal basis to provide: Local Government Act 1972, s.111

Project name: Community Cookery Project – MUNCH C.I.C

Project description: Delivery of two 3-week community cooking programmes for families at a community hall in Andover (tbc once approved). The project aims to improve healthy eating habits, reduce social isolation, and build local capacity for future cookery sessions.

The project will be run by Munch CIC, who have successfully delivered projects like this in the surrounding areas. Munch will provide their mobile kitchen and all equipment needed for the project, which they will remove and store at the end of each session.

Is the proposal a one off project, pilot or an ongoing project ?

One-off pilot project with potential for future replication by trained facilitators. Training volunteer facilitators would be next step of the project if pilot proves successful.

There is enormous scope to grow the project, if the pilot proves successful, to include but not limited to:

- Inclusion with diverse groups to learn about other cultures and diet
- Coordination with Allotments to learn how to make products from waste produce, can be sold to help fund the community and reduce food waste.
- Working with the community to put on 'community come eat' evenings where residents can be invited to come and have a meal for free, cooked by the participants of each session, local young adults/school children can volunteer to wait the tables, giving potential experience for jobs in the future.

The idea would be to imbed the project into the community so that the residents of that community take ownership of the project, with support from Andover Town Council and stakeholders, ensuring sustainability and growth relevant to the community it is contained within.

Evidence of need:

Feedback from Youth Forum and grassroots organisations highlights demand for affordable, healthy cooking initiatives. Social isolation and poor diet are recurring issues in Andover communities. This occurs across all demographics but specifically families with young children and older single people.

Referrals:

Schools involved with the pilot will identify and make referrals to the project.

Project Brief:

Aims

- Improve community health and promote healthy eating.
- Provide opportunities for families to learn new cooking skills.
- Reduce social isolation and strengthen community networks.
- Build local capacity through facilitator training for sustainability if pilot is successful.

Objectives:

- Deliver two 3-week cooking programmes for 20 families (pilot project, intention is to increase the reach if pilot is successful)
- Following a successful pilot train up to 10 local volunteers as facilitators using MUNCH's accredited toolkit.
- To imbed within the wider Community sustainable community led programmes with support from Andover Town Council to grow to suit the need of each community.
- Engage those in need (families, older people, young adults) via local schools and community partners.

Risk and Mitigation:

Risk: Low uptake from families.
Mitigation: Work with schools and community partners for targeted referrals.

Risk: If Andover Town Council does not actively engage and provide initiatives to support residents—as highlighted in the Business Plan under public consultation—the reputational damage could be significant.

Mitigation: Run a pilot project, as suggested, to test feasibility and community interest. Trying and failing is better than failing to try.

Other funding available for ATC to apply for this project to run if successful:

Potential to apply for grants via Hampshire County Council, Test Valley Borough Council, and national healthy eating initiatives.

Money remaining in the Budget line Youth Services for this project: £50,000.00

Stakeholders required for pilot

Munch CiC	**Sarah Needham**
TVBC	**Andrea Harris**
Community Halls	**Management staff**
Schools	**Teachers and SEN staff for community referrals**

Will this project meet the objectives set out in the Business Plan?

Yes – supports health and wellbeing, community engagement, and skills development.

Decisions from Committee/Full Council:

Decisions taken at Committee/Full Council that are relevant to the document,

C349/01/26	It was proposed by Councillor S Hardstaff and seconded by Councillor R Hughes and	RESOLVED: FOR - 13, AGAINST - 0, ABSTENTIONS – 2, that the Community Chef Project be referred back to the Community and Events Committee and report brought back to the next Full Council meeting.

Supporting Documentation relevant to this report:

Link in the document here	
Munch	**Impact Report**