St Luke's Youth Programme (The Base)

1. Purpose of report

To ask Council to approve the release of the second and final payment of the grant previously agreed for St Luke's Youth Programme (The Base) for the 2026/27 financial year.

3. Background

In May 2025 the Council awarded a grant of £3,000 to support St Luke's Church youth activities, including The Base and ancillary activities for younger children. At that time, Council also indicated support for a further £3,000 for the 2026/27 financial year (the "second payment"), subject to receipt of further information on a funding strategy and alternative funding sources for The Base.

4. Update since the first tranche

Since the first tranche of the grant was awarded, the Parish Office has met with the village youth worker. The following update was provided (as of April 2026):

- **Registered young people:** 43 on roster with 23 regular attendees.
- **Reach:** Young people from 8 different schools covering Hindhead, Headley and Haslemere; primary and secondary (Years 5–8).
- **Sessions:** The Base runs on Friday nights, split into two sessions (younger and older children) with more children in the younger session.
- **Holiday activity:** School holiday workshops; Summer 2026 planned as three-day workshops across separate weeks ("holiday from home" set-up).
- **Volunteers:** 12 routine volunteers, with approximately 20 additional people available to call upon.

5. Funding position

The funding strategy provided was limited in scope. The youth worker reported that constructive discussions have taken place with a private individual, and that St Edmund's remains willing to support specific projects.

2. Recommendation

It is recommended that Full Council approves the second payment of £3,000 to St Luke's Youth Programme (The Base) for the 2026/27 financial year, as previously agreed.

The Parish Office has requested that further work be undertaken to identify additional funding opportunities beyond individual donors, in order to strengthen the long-term viability of the club.

7. Considerations for future years (for consideration, the topic will be brought back to Council in September 2026)

Council may wish to note the following points for a separate discussion about future funding (beyond the 2026/27):

- Whether the Council intends to make an annual budget provision for youth provision support (e.g. £3,000 per year) or continue to consider funding on an ad-hoc basis.
- Whether the Council would prefer to consider a different level of support in future years.
- If the Council wishes to make an annual budget provision, what would the youth worker be required to submit? Options include a predetermined list of data about the programme and the participants, clear information about costs and spending, activities towards securing additional funding with clear outcomes, conditions on receiving additional funding.
- If funding is considered on an 'ad hoc' basis, the Council will need to consider each year the funds available for grants, which current is £2,000, during the budget setting process.
- Whether the Council wishes to prioritise evidence of additional funding from sources other than personal donations and/or continuing or sustainable funding as part of any future applications.