

REPORT TO COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

MILLENNIUM BURSARY

Report Reference COM-26-06
Meeting Date 12th October 2026
Agenda Item 9
Prepared by A Keppel-Green, Town Clerk



1.0 BACKGROUND

The Millennium Bursary was introduced in 2000 as a joint project by the Town Council and Knutsford Lions to create a legacy from millennium celebrations. The bursary is an annual award made to a university student to support their final year studies. The bursary is provided by the Town Council and the Knutsford Lions often provide a supplementary bursary to a second student.

The bursary is promoted annually from late autumn/early winter. It is made to a student currently in their second year, in advance of progressing to their third year. The value of the award rises by CPI annually and is currently £760. It is open to any student who is usually a resident of Knutsford or Toft.

The number of applicants each year has been relatively low. Only two applicants applied for the 2026 award, whilst in 2021 seven applied¹. The main challenge is communicating the award to students in their second year of university, who are not readily engaged in the council's communication channels.

The Knutsford Lions recently discussed their involvement in the scheme. It was confirmed that Knutsford Lions will continue to support the award, as they have done from the initial launch, however, they noted that in recent years there have been very few applications, even with extensive publicity. This is spite of there being perhaps 100 people from the Knutsford area entering university each year. The Knutsford lions therefore agreed:

- a) To ask the council if it wishes to continue the scheme
- b) That the Knutsford Lions will continue to help with the interviews but awards additional to the bursary will not be made unless there are four or more applicants.
- c) They strongly recommend that the title of the award is changed.

The Knutsford Lions expanded on (c) stating "The title 'Millennium Bursary' means nothing to college students, who may not even recognise the second word. We suggest an alternative title such as KTC 'Undergraduate's Prize' in advertising it. The reference to the founding of the award could be covered in the application form."

2.0 DECISIONS REQUIRED

The committee should consider:

- a) Whether the Millennium Bursary scheme should continue
- b) Whether to amend the name of the scheme e.g. to the "Knutsford Undergraduate's Prize"

¹ Numbers have fluctuated but usually no more than eight applications have been received

