



Title	SALC Bid – Together In Tone
Meeting	Community Committee
Date of meeting	15.09.25
Action Required	To approve the submission of a funding application to Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC)
Report Author and email address	Laura Batcha – Laura@wellingtontowncouncil.co.uk

1. Introduction

1.1 To seek approval from the Committee for Wellington Town Council to apply for funding of £10,000 from the Somerset Association of Local Councils Health & Wellbeing Fund to deliver a cross-parish music and wellbeing initiative titled *Together in Tone*. Wellington Town Council will act as the lead authority for the project and manage grant delivery in collaboration with the Local Community Network (LCN) and wider parish partners.

2. Background

2.1 The SALC Health & Wellbeing Fund offers grants of up to £10,000 for projects that promote community wellbeing across multiple parishes. The funding does not require match funding, but the project must span more than one Town or Parish Council area.

2.2 *Together in Tone* is a community music initiative designed to bring people together across Wellington, Wiveliscombe, and the wider Taunton LCN through shared musical workshops, performances, and local storytelling. The project aims to engage residents from all age groups and backgrounds through music and creativity, improving mental wellbeing and social connection.

2.3 Wellington Town Council, as the lead applicant, would manage the delivery of the project, including recruitment of a Project Co-ordinator/Facilitator (budgeted at £2,250). The role would be part-managed by the Community Development Officer and Michelle Brooks, the Local Community Network Link Officer.

2.4A draft project concept titled *Together in Tone* is available and forms the basis of this application. The bid will only proceed following LCN-led engagement with other Parish Councils, coordinated by the Link Officer. At the time of submission, cross-parish support may still be pending.

3. Links to Council Vision and Place Plan

Vision

- A town with vibrant cultural, sporting, and social communities

Music is used as a tool to bring communities together across parishes, creating shared performances and creative moments.

- A destination of choice for people to live and work and for businesses to be located

A vibrant community arts scene contributes to place identity, civic pride, and local celebration (Wellington Day, Welly Fest).

Wellington Place Plan

- Inclusive Access and Connected Communities

Engages residents of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds through collaborative music-making and storytelling.

- Pride in Place: Culture, Heritage & Belonging

Builds local cultural identity through music; connects stories and voices from across the LCN.

- Enterprise, Skills & Local Economies

Provides freelance work and creative commissioning; supports local musicians and facilitators; develops skills in event delivery and coordination.

4. Financial Implications

- Grant amount to be requested: £10,000
- No match funding is required
- Wellington Town Council would be responsible for managing the grant and appointing a freelance project lead if successful

5. Risks

- If sufficient interest from other parishes is not secured, the bid may not proceed

The project will be co-developed with the Local Community Network Link Officer, who will lead on engaging other parishes.

- Delivery will depend on successful recruitment of a suitable freelance or partner facilitator

The budget includes a reasonable allocation to attract a skilled freelance or partner facilitator (e.g. Actiontrack). The role will be co-managed by the Community Development Officer and LCN Link Officer to ensure delivery is supported.

6. Considerations

- That the Committee approves submission of the *Together in Tone* funding application to Somerset Association of Local Councils
- That Wellington Town Council agrees to act as lead authority and fundholder, managing recruitment, coordination, and delivery of the project across participating parishes

7. Background Papers

Appendix 1 – Together in Tone

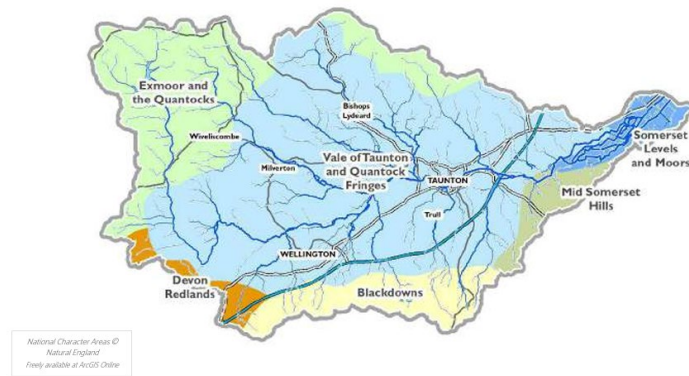
Project Title: Together in Tone – A Musical Collaboration for Wellbeing

Purpose

To improve health and wellbeing, connection, and cultural pride by linking choirs, musicians, and residents across the Wellington & Wiveliscombe LCN. The project will create a musical thread through events and communities, reducing isolation and celebrating shared identity.

Project Overview

- Facilitated by a Community Music Lead (contracted by Wellington Town Council)
- Engage music groups from at least **4-6** (e.g. Wellington, Wiveliscombe, Norton, Milverton etc...)
- Deliver co-created music sessions and workshops across participating areas
- Produce a collaborative original song (or medley) based on community input
- Host performances at:
 - **10 Parishes Festival/Wivey Street Festival** (Sept 2026)
 - **Wellington Day** (TBC 2026)
 - **Welly Fest** (Will aim to link up)
 - **Taunton Together**
- Document the process through photos, video, and community voice



Estimated Budget (£10,000)

Category	Amount	Notes
Project Co-ordinator / Facilitator	£2,250	Local freelance or partner-led (Action Trak)
Artist fees (workshops/perf.)	£5,000	Delivery across parishes
Digital content & documentation	£1,000	Recording, photography, social media
Event materials & logistics	£1,000	PA hire, setup, print
Marketing & Community Comms	£250	Posters, digital promotion
Refreshments / Volunteer support	£500	Events and rehearsal sessions
Total	£10,000	Fully funded via SALC Health & Wellbeing Grant

Updated Delivery Timeline

Phase	Timeline	Details
Recruitment & Setup	Oct – Dec 2025	Confirm funding (Oct), advertise and recruit Project Co-ordinator/facilitator
Scoping & Engagement	Jan – Mar 2026	Identify choirs, music groups, interested parishes; hold taster sessions and planning workshops (Start of funding)
Co-Creation & Rehearsals	Apr – Jun 2026	Develop shared musical piece(s); run creative sessions, rehearsals, and prepare performance content
Performances & Early Sustainability	Jul – Aug 2026	Host events (e.g. Wellington Day, Welly Fest, promote locally, begin conversations on post-project ownership)
Final Performance & Evaluation	Sept 2026	Final showcase (e.g. Ten Parishes Festival); evaluate project, gather feedback, and submit report (End of Funding)

Outcomes

- Reduce isolation and boost self-esteem through inclusive music participation, particularly for individuals who may not typically engage with community events
- Build a connected LCN-wide creative network, bringing together choirs, musicians, volunteers, and community groups across Wellington & Wiveliscombe
- Create a legacy model for collaborative local music that can be replicated for future festivals and wellbeing projects
- Encourage cross-generational and cross-parish partnerships, bridging age and geographic gaps through shared creative experiences
- Develop a one-page directory of local music groups and choirs, to be updated annually; we will identify an individual or organisation to take ownership of maintaining this as part of the legacy
- Provide skills-building opportunities for individuals or groups who express interest in continuing the project beyond the funded year, participants will be signposted to facilitation training, event delivery, and IT support skills to enable long-term coordination and confidence (Partners like Spark Somerset or Somerset Skills and Learning can assist with this).