



Controlled Document

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Grants Policy

Introduction

A grant is any payment made by the council to be used by an organisation for a specific purpose that will benefit the Parish or residents of the Parish and which is not directly controlled or administered by the Council. The Council awards grants at its discretion to Parish organisations which can demonstrate a clear need for financial support to benefit the residents of the Parish by:

- Providing a service
- Enhancing the quality of life
- Improving the environment
- Promoting the Parish of Lenham in a positive way.

Available Funding

The grant funding total allocation increased substantially from £5,000 in 2024–25 to £25,000 in 2025–26. This may increase or decrease in line with the council's annual budget setting. This decision reflected the Council's commitment to supporting major projects within the village, while also responding to a notable rise in applications, including a greater number of smaller requests. The council will welcome applications up to a maximum of £5000 in any financial year.

An annual review of the grants budget is undertaken during budget preparation each year to ensure that an appropriate allocation is made.

The Council's grant funding is primarily intended to support revenue expenditure that delivers direct and immediate benefit to the community. Applications for capital projects may be considered where there is a clear and demonstrable community benefit; however, such awards are expected to be exceptional. In general, priority will be given to revenue funding to ensure that limited resources are distributed as widely and effectively as possible.

Grant Application Process

1. Applicants will be required to complete an application form. Please request the latest copy of the application form from the clerk. All questions on the application form should be fully answered and additional appropriate information, which supports an application, should be provided.
2. The Clerk to the council will receive all applications in the first instance. A designated Councillor will then collate all the necessary information from the applicant ready for presentation and discussion at the appropriate Council meeting.
3. In addition to the application form, organisations will be required to provide the following supporting information if appropriate:
 - a. A copy of their written constitution or details of their aims and purpose.
 - b. Full details of the project or activity.

- c. Demonstration that the grant will be of benefit to the local community within the parish.
 - d. The proportion or number of beneficiaries living in the parish.
 - e. Demonstration of a clear need for funding.
 - f. A copy of the previous year's accounts or, for new initiatives, a detailed budget and business plan.
4. The Council will expect to receive in writing to the Clerk any expression of interest for a possible grant application exceeding £1000 by 30th September of the financial year prior to the funds being required, in order that budget provisions can be considered.
5. Submission of all applications is required by 31st December of the financial year prior to the funds being required.
6. The Council will make the decision on which grants to award. All applicants will be contacted following the Council's decision.
7. The Council has a limited budget each year and guidance can be given to applicants as to how much money is likely to be available in a specific financial year.
8. The Council does not normally fund the entire cost of a project, applicants will need to demonstrate how the project is supported from elsewhere (be that in money or time given in lieu) and the benefit to improving the wider aspects of village life

Conditions of Funding

1. The organisation must be either non-profit or charitable. Applications will not be considered from private organisations operated as a business to make a profit or surplus.
2. Grants will not be made to individuals.
3. Grants will not be made retrospectively.
4. Applications will not normally be considered from national organisations or local groups with access to funds from national 'umbrella' or 'parent' organisations, unless funds are not available from their national bodies, or the funds available are inadequate for a specified project.
5. The administration of and accounting for any grant shall be the responsibility of the recipient. All awards must be properly accounted for and evidence of expenditure should be applied to the council as requested.
6. Ongoing commitments to award grants and subsidies in future years will not be made. A fresh application will be required each year.

7. Each application will be assessed on its own merits.
8. The Council may make the award of any grant or subsidy subject to such additional conditions and requirements as it considers appropriate. The Council reserves the right to refuse any grant application which it considers to be inappropriate or against the objectives of the Council.
9. You will need to provide The Council with any evidence or monitoring information they request to ensure that any grant awarded has been spent in accordance with this application and any other terms and conditions.
10. Any grant must only be used for the purpose for which it was awarded unless the written approval of the Council has been obtained for a change in use of the grant monies, and that any unspent portion of the grant must be returned to the Council by the end of the financial year in which it was awarded.
11. The Council may make the award of any grant or subsidy as it considers appropriate in the event of any unforeseen urgent event.
12. Nothing contained herein shall prevent the Council from exercising, at any time, it's existing duty or power in respect of providing financial assistance or grants to local or national organisations under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, Section 137.

