



## **COMMUNITY GRANTS POLICY**

### **Purpose**

1. The purpose of this policy is to encourage and support activities and projects lead by community and voluntary organisations which benefit residents.

### **Introduction**

2. A grant is any payment made by the council to be used by an organisation for a specific purpose that will benefit the parish, and /or residents of the parish, and which is not directly controlled or administered by the council.
3. The council will consider awarding grants to community organisations which can demonstrate a clear need for financial support to projects and activities that benefit our community. For example
  - Providing a service
  - Enhancing the quality of life
  - Improving recreation and /or sports
  - Improving the environment
  - Community cohesion and engagement activities
  - Promoting West Rainton and Leamside in a positive way

### **Policy**

4. Applications will only be accepted from not-for-profit community organisations/voluntary groups or charitable organisations. These should be based in the parish or, if based outside, their work should be of direct benefit to residents of the parish.
5. The maximum grant award of each application is £300.
6. All applications for grant funding must be submitted direct to the parish clerk no later than 30 November each year for consideration of funding from the following years budget. The funding requested must relate to a project or activity that will start in that year.
7. To qualify for an award the applicant must be able to demonstrate:
  - That there is a need for the activity or project to be funded
  - That funding will benefit the parish or residents of the parish.

- That it does not discriminate on grounds of racial origin gender, disability, age (except for obvious reasons, such as becoming a member of a youth club) and political or religious persuasion.

8. The council will not fund:

- Private Individuals
- Political Parties
- Religious organisation unless a clear benefit to the community can be demonstrated irrespective of religious beliefs.
- National organisations except where it can be demonstrated that the funding will substantially benefit residents of the parish.
- Applications submitted after the closure date, unless in exceptional circumstances (See paragraph x below)
- Purposes for which there is a statutory duty upon other local or central government departments to fund or provide.
- Applications exceeding the maximum individual grant award except in exceptional circumstances and where it can be clearly demonstrated that additional funds are essential, and the benefits are proportionate with the additional expenditure.
- Retrospective applications

### **Grant application and award process**

9. Any application for funding must be made using the application form.

10. A guidance note has been prepared to assist applicants. This is attached (Appendix C).

11. Application forms can be downloaded directly from the council's website. They are also obtainable from the parish clerk. Applications can be emailed or posted to the Parish Clerk.

12. On receipt, the parish clerk will review the application and supporting information and follow up any queries or obvious omissions with the applicant.

13. If the demand for funding exceeds the budget available, eligible applications will be initially prioritised for funding by the parish clerk.  
**Priority will be given to those applications which contribute the most to any documented council priorities and /or which demonstrate the greatest need and benefits for the parish and /or its residents.**

14. All eligible applications will then be considered by the full council, together with any recommendations made by the parish clerk, to agree which activities or projects to fund.

15. Where a Member of the council is a member of a group /organisation applying for funding that Member must consider whether in accordance with the Code of Conduct, it is necessary for them to declare an interest in the matter. Advice may be sought from the Clerk or Monitoring Officer of Durham County Council if required.

16. Where additional information is considered necessary to fully consider or prioritise an application, applicants may be invited to meet with full council to further discuss the application prior to a decision being made.
17. All applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of council funding decisions.
18. All awards will be subject to the applicant accepting grant terms and conditions as set out the attached information.
19. The council reserves the right to make an award of any grant subject to additional conditions and requirements as it considers appropriate.
20. The council's decision on any application is final and there is no right to appeal.
21. The council reserves the right to decline any application which it considers inappropriate or against the objectives of the council without giving reasons for its decision.
22. The council will not commit to any continuing expenditure unless previously approved.
23. In exceptional circumstances the parish council may consider a grant application form beyond the closure date. All such funding requests must be made using the grant application form and be supporting by all the documentation and information considered necessary by the Parish Clerk to allow Parish Council to make an informed decision. The nature of the exceptional circumstance must be clearly stated by the applicant. When reporting such applications to Parish Council for consideration, the Parish Clerk will firstly ask the Parish Council to consider if the exceptional circumstances outlined warrant the application being considered outside the annual process outlined above. A key factor in determining whether something is considered to be an exceptional circumstance, or not, is what the risk would be of deferring consideration of the funding request until the next annual budget setting process and the likely impact this would have on the benefit to the community.

#### **Approval and Review Arrangements**

24. This policy was approved by full council at its meeting on 18 February 2021
25. It will be reviewed on an annual basis by full council.

### Grant Conditions

1. Funding must be used to benefit the parish or its residents and expenditure must be proportionate to the benefit.
2. Applicants must strive to achieve good value for money in all its expenditure and obtain competitive quotes wherever possible.
3. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that they are in compliance with all legal and statutory requirements relevant to the activity/project and have any necessary insurance arrangements in place.
4. The grant shall only be used for the purpose stated on application otherwise the money shall be returned to the council, except where the council's prior written consent has been given for the funds to be used for another purpose.
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 retained and supplied to the council as requested.
6. The council reserves the right to request repayment of any grant/donation where an application does not comply with the conditions accepted on award.
7. Failure to adhere to the councils grant conditions may impact on the success of future funding requests.
8. Where a grant is awarded, payment will only be made on receipt of a grant award acceptance form (Appendix B) confirming the agreement to the councils grant terms and conditions.
9. Payment will be made by cheque to the organisation and not an individual.
10. Should the organisation disband during the period of the grant the council may ask for all or some of the monies to be paid back.
11. Organisations must contact the council before disposing of any equipment or resources purchased or partly funded with grant funding from the Council.
12. Organisations must acknowledge the support of the Parish Council and include the Parish Council's logo in any promotional material.

**Grant/donation Acceptance Form**

I/We accept the offer of award of £X dated .....awarded to  
.....from West Rainton and Leamside Parish  
Council in respect of.....

I/we declare that we are authorised to act on behalf of the  
applicant,.....and agree to accept the  
terms and conditions as detailed below relevant to this award.

Signed:

Position:

Date:

### Guidance Note for Applicants

1. This guidance note has been prepared to assist organisation who may be considering applying to the parish council for financial support. It is part of the council's community grant policy. A copy of the policy is available from the parish clerk on request or can be down loaded form the website.
2. The council will consider awarding grants to community organisations which can demonstrate a clear need for financial support to projects and activities that benefit our community. For example
  - Providing a service
  - Enhancing the quality of life
  - Improving recreation and /or sports
  - Improving the environment
  - Community cohesion and engagement activities
  - Promoting West Rainton and Leamside in a positive way
3. To qualify for an award the applicant must be able to demonstrate:
  - That there is a need for the activity or project to be funded
  - That funding will benefit the parish or residents of the parish
  - That it does not discriminate on grounds of racial origin gender, disability, age (except for obvious reasons, such as becoming a member of a youth club) and political or religious persuasion.
4. Examples of the type of activities or expenditure that can bring benefits to the community include:
  - Purchasing equipment
  - Transport that will enable group members to partake in a trip or outing.
  - Training activities or purchase of expertise of an outside trainer/instructor/facilitator
  - Running costs of a viable group that is experiencing a temporary period of hardship.
  - Hosting special events or celebrations
  - Provision of recreational facilities
  - Provision of street furniture, planters and plants
5. Certain types of organisations and activities that will not be funded. include:
  - Private Individuals
  - Political Parties
  - Religious organisation unless a clear benefit to the community can be demonstrated irrespective of religious beliefs.
  - National organisations except where it can be demonstrated that the funding will substantially benefit residents of the parish.

- Applicants submitted after the closure date, unless in exceptional circumstances, such as in cases where it can be clearly demonstrated that the activity is of an urgent nature that could not have been foreseen or where there is a significant risk of deferring consideration of the funding request to the next financial year.
  - Purposes for which there is a statutory duty upon other local or central government departments to fund or provide.
  - Applications exceeding the maximum grant award of £300, except in exceptional circumstances and where it can be clearly demonstrated that additional funds are essential, and the benefits are proportionate with the additional expenditure.
  - Retrospective applications
6. It should be noted that this list may not be exhaustive, and the council reserve the right to decline any application which it considers inappropriate or against the objectives of the council without giving reasons for its decision.
7. All applications should be made using the application form attached, completed in black ink. A Word format version is available from the Parish Clerk
8. If you require assistance in completing the application form or submitting the supporting information, please contact the parish clerk at:

West Rainton and Leamside Parish Council  
C/O 62 Trevelyan Place, Peterlee SR8 2NL

Email: [clerk@westraintonandleamsidepc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@westraintonandleamsidepc.gov.uk)

9. **Please ensure that you sign the declaration at the end of the application form. This should be signed by someone who is authorised to act on behalf of the organisation and in signing accepts responsibility or the accuracy of information provided.**
10. Completed applications form should be returned to the parish clerk by post or email.
11. Please note that all applications must be returned by the closure date specified on the application form. Normally this will be the 30 November each year so that funding requests can be considered as part of the budget setting process for the following year. Applicants made in one financial year should therefore be in respect of activities or projects that are due to commence in the following financial year .i.e., after the 31<sup>st</sup> March.

**Please ensure that your application specifies the expected start date of the project or activity.**

**It should be noted that if an activity will be repeated in future years, a separate application must be made. i.e. grants awards cover only one year and a successful application for funding in**

**one year does not guarantee the award of grant for the same activity in the following year.**

12. In support of your application, you should also provide:

- A copy of your constitution
- A copy of your latest bank statement(s) showing financial balance(s)
- A copy of your latest audited accounts
- Details of any current relevant financial information
- Copies of any grant award letters from other funders relevant to the application
- Details of to whom the cheque payment should be made payable to and the address to where this should be sent should your application be successful.
- The period of activity or service.

13. If any of the above is not available, please give the reason on the application form. If your organisation is newly formed, please include a copy of the budget and business plan.

14. Please feel free to submit any additional information you consider relevant in support of your application.

15. It should be noted that the council may require additional information to fully consider or prioritise an application, and applicants may be invited to meet with full council to further discuss the application prior to a decision being made.

16. Failure to supply any information requested by the council may hinder the success of your application.

17. It should be noted that the council's decision on the consideration of applications is final and there is no right of appeal.

18. Any award approved by the parish council is made subject to the acceptance of terms and conditions. A declaration signed by the authorised officer of the organisation agreeing to these terms and conditions must be received before payment is made.

19. The terms and conditions that will normally apply are given below.

- Funding must be used to benefit the parish, or its residents and expenditure must be proportionate to the benefit.
- Applicants must strive to achieve good value for money in all its expenditure and obtain competitive quotes wherever possible.
- Applicants are responsible for ensuring that they are in compliance with all legal and statutory requirements relevant to the activity/project and have any necessary insurance arrangements in place.

- The grant shall only be used for the purpose stated on application otherwise the money shall be returned to the council, except where the council's prior written consent has been given for the funds to be used for another purpose.
- 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 retained and supplied to the council as requested.
- The council reserves the right to request repayment of any grant where an application does not comply with the conditions accepted on award.
- Failure to adhere to the councils grant conditions may impact on the success of future funding requests.
- Where a grant is awarded, payment will only be made on receipt of a grant award acceptance form confirming the agreement to the councils grant terms and conditions.
- Payment will be made by cheque to the organisation and not an individual.
- Should the organisation disband during the period of the grant the council may ask for all or some of the monies to be paid back?
- Organisations must contact the council before disposing of any equipment or resources purchased or partly funded with grant funding from the council.
- Acknowledgement the financial support received from the council is required on documentation and any promotional literature or other media operation.
- It should be noted that the council reserves the right to make an award of any grant subject to additional conditions and requirements as it considers appropriate.