Community Grants criteria 2022/23

Agreed at the 25th October 2022 meeting of Policy and Finance Committee

Introduction

Eastleigh Town Council is pleased to award community grants to local organisations for the benefit the Town and its residents. In accordance with the Council's Community Grant Policy, the Council has identified £3,000 in total, available as grants of up to £800 each, to support projects, initiatives and organisations that meet the objectives set out below. The Council welcomes applications from 1 November 2022 until 1 April 2023, when the Council will publish new criteria for Community Grants in the 2023/24 financial year.

Objectives

Eastleigh Town Council understands that residents are worried about their financial security and wellbeing at this time. Household bills are rising, with energy for heating a particular concern for many, and meeting even basic needs like food, clothing and transport costs will be hard for many. With that in mind, we want to support local projects and organisations that aim to deliver one or more of the following objectives:

- Supporting residents with household costs, including food, energy and clothing
- Providing support or services for the benefit of residents' wellbeing and mental health
- Bringing residents together to tackle loneliness, build new relationships and foster a greater sense of community in the Town
- Creating opportunities for residents to grow their own food, make their own clothing and other productive projects that reduce household costs

Examples of the kinds of work we would like to support include but are not limited to:

- Help with household budgeting, cost-saving advice, not-for-profit collective purchasing or community pantries, food banks and similar schemes.
- Advice for increasing household energy efficiency, and providing low-cost items and devices to support this.
- Cost-free counselling, mental health guidance, and meditation, mindfulness or exercise classes that promote mental wellbeing.

- Community social events, public celebrations, awareness events, local business expositions and other opportunities to bring people together, share ideas and promote the Town while delivering the objectives above.
- Starting a community growing project or garden, adopting public raised beds, verges or other open spaces, and sharing ideas for growing edible plants at home and in window boxes

Grant funds can be used for most purposes, including staff costs, venue or equipment hire, small capital purchases, advertising and promotion, transport, food or catering supplies, or specialist consultation. Where an applicant is an individual or commercial organisation, they must clearly demonstrate how the grant will be used solely for a not-for-profit activity or community benefit.

Grants will not be made retrospectively or be made once work on a project has already commenced. However, grants for specific costs that support an ongoing project to continue or broaden its aims to meet the objectives above will be considered.

Demonstrating how an application meets the criteria

Applications must meet all the requirements set out in the Council's Community Grants Policy. When writing your application, you should make sure you explain:

- The likely impact of your project. It should have clear deliverables that align with the objectives set out above.
- Who will benefit from the project. Projects that provide the best value for money, in terms of net benefit to as many residents across the whole Town as possible, will be prioritised over those projected to benefit fewer people.
- Who you are working with. Joint or group applications will be considered favourably, where this means that more people can benefit from the project, and cooperative working brings communities together. Applicants are encouraged to apply for complementary funding from other organisations and will considered favourably if they show this.
- Full costings for the project (including costs that will not be met by the grant) and how the grant will contribute to or enable the project to be delivered.
- Clear evidence that the project delivers its objectives without generating financial profit for any one individual or organisation.
- The timeline for the project. Grant monies must be spent within one calendar year of receipt. Awardees must provide evidence of how the grant has been used, and any unspent funds returned to the Council within 18 months of the award.