

**Community Partnership Grants Policy and Guidance Notes (2018 - 2019)**

Introduction

Community Partnerships can give grants of up to £500 (£250 max for Whitworth Community Partnership) to external organisations that can provide added value to the residents of the Borough. The work that the grants will fund must fit in with or complement the priorities identified by the Community Partnerships.

The Community Partnerships delegate authority to consider and allocate council grants to a Working Group of three Rossendale Borough Council Members for each Community Partnership and an observer from the community / voluntary sector.

The Council, when producing its end of year accounts will also publish details of all grants given by the Partnerships in that year, which organisations received the funding and for what purpose.

Advertising of Grant availability and distribution of application forms.

The Council will publicise on their website and through the Community Partnerships the fact that there is funding available through the Partnerships. The deadline for the receipt of applications is two weeks before each Community Partnerships meeting. Dates of meetings are included on the grant application form.

Each Community Partnership will publish details of grants given at the end of each financial year.

Criteria for Grant Giving

Grants will be given to local constituted community, voluntary and not for profit groups that are able to demonstrate their ability to add value to those services which are needed by the communities of Rossendale, and who provide services which fulfil an important social, economic or cultural role which is not fulfilled by other statutory or not for profit organisations in the area.

Grants will only be given for projects or activities that have wider community benefit.

Grants may be given to organisations which are operating in a wider area than Rossendale as long as there is a specific benefit to the people of Rossendale.

Grants will not normally be given to organisations who have already received a grant in the same financial year.

Grants will not be given to organisations that have in the past been found to be unable to manage finances effectively unless new management and procedures are demonstrably in place.

Grants will not normally be given to organisations from which money has had to be clawed back in previous years due to impropriety or malpractice.

Rossendale Borough Council is committed to valuing diversity and promoting equality. Grants will not be given to groups who do not operate in line with these values.

Grants will not be given to party political groups.

Amount of grant available and how to apply

Grants are limited to a maximum of £500 (£250 max for Whitworth Community Partnership), with individual Community Partnerships having the discretion to limit it to a smaller amount if Partnership members agree. An application form will need to be completed and all organisations that receive a grant will be required to provide monitoring information and receipts when requested, usually three months after the grant is awarded. This will include information on who has benefitted from the grant.

Criteria for assessing grants

The Community Partnerships have identified the following priority areas:

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| Town Centre Improvements | Supporting children and young people |
| Increasing Tourism and Leisure | Improving the environment |
| Helping the Economy | Supporting families |
| Improving access to service and transport | Tackling rural issues |
| Improving living conditions | Supporting older people |
| Reducing loneliness and social isolation | Providing better facilities |
| Improving people’s health and wellbeing | Tackling anti-social behaviour |

Applications must clearly link the activity of the applicant to these priorities, or any priorities that succeed them.

Rossendale Borough Council is keen to see local groups working together collectively to provide better links and ties and to achieve economies of scale. Applicants should show how they are working with partner organisations in the public, private and not for profit sector to deliver services.

Determining of grant applications

All grant determining decisions will be final. Each application will be considered by the Community Partnership Working Group who will make a decision and advise the members of the Community Partnership of their decision.

If a consensus cannot be reached by the Community Partnership Working Group a summary of the discussion and view of the working group members will be captured by the Locality Manager and referred to the Portfolio Holder for Communities and the Director of Communities for a decision.

General

All organisations working with children and young people or vulnerable groups will be required to have in place appropriate policies in respect of safeguarding of their clients. This will include appropriate levels of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for volunteers and staff.

All organisations which employ staff will be required to demonstrate that they have in place appropriate employment and management policies, including a health and safety policy (where required) and a diversity or equal opportunities policy.

The Council retains the right to refuse funding to any organisation who it feels does not meet the criteria set out, any organisation which it feels may bring the Council or Community Partnership into disrepute or any organisation which it believes to have been involved in any racist, sexist, homophobic or discriminatory practices.

The Council recognises the good work and potential work that the voluntary and community sector can provide and would encourage groups to apply for Community Partnership funding.

Further information

For more information, or if you require assistance completing the application form, please contact Jackie Flynn on Tel: 01706 252532 or Email jackieflynn@rossendalebc.gov.uk