

Blaby District Council Community Grants Scheme – Additional Guidance

During the last two years we made some temporary changes to the Community Grants programme as a result of the impacts of the pandemic. We know that some voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations are still feeling its financial impacts. We also recognise that the current high energy and fuel costs will significantly affect both the running costs of some organisations as well as service users already on low incomes. With these factors in mind, we are applying some additional criteria for this financial year. If you are intending to apply for a grant it is important that you also read the full grant programme guidance notes to check your organisation's eligibility, the overall priorities and process of assessing applications.

- The grants scheme is still open to all eligible applicants and project ideas (including large capital grants) that fit with the main grant criteria. However, if oversubscribed we will give priority to VCS organisations that demonstrate either continued financial impact from the pandemic and/or significant high energy or fuel costs; or organisations that support residents most affected by the cost of living challenges.
- We are offering increased flexibility with regard to costs that can be met through our Revenue Grants. Revenue Grant applications can be made to cover:
 - day-to-day running costs such as: insurance, utilities, rent or staffing, if the applicant demonstrates ongoing financial impacts from the pandemic
 - energy bills or fuel expenses

In both cases, applications **must relate to future costs** (not paid for prior to award of the grant). Organisations will be expected to provide proof of expenditure in the usual way.

- The usual Revenue Grant is £500. However, if you are using these special criteria, in **very exceptional** circumstances, an organisation may apply for up to £1000 during this period. Exceptions might include:
 - Organisations that are disproportionately affected by high fuel costs such as community transport charities, those that run minibuses regularly to support vulnerable residents or pay volunteer fuel expenses on a regular basis
 - Organisations or projects that specifically support residents who are struggling as a result of the current cost of living challenges. For example, food banks, specialist advice or support services, activities for low income families/residents.

It is entirely at the grants panel's discretion whether to award a £1000 grant.

- If you are using any of these criteria, you must ensure that you have clearly explained the impact that the pandemic and/or high energy or fuel costs has had on your organisation and/or its service users, the need for your project and how it will benefit residents in section two of the application form.

If you have any questions about your eligibility or application, contact the Funding and Awards Officer on 0116 2727566 or email grants@blaby.gov.uk