

## **Councillor community grant scheme Criteria and guidance 2026-27**

The councillor community grant scheme is a budget of £7000 allocated to each district councillor to support local voluntary/not for profit organisations within, or that benefit, residents in their ward.

### **Aims of the grant programme**

East Hampshire District Council recognises that the people, organisations and societies in our area are one of our biggest assets. The councillor grant scheme seeks to enable and support community action by harnessing the collective efforts of our 125,000 residents in East Hampshire.

This can have a dramatic impact on the quality of life for our residents, experience for our visitors and the environment we all share.

Grants could be used to help kick start community projects which support local residents, improve the local environment or improve the provision of services and facilities. We would encourage projects that demonstrate how they contribute to the objectives of our community development strategy 'building thriving communities, 2025-28', focusing on building local capacity, connecting communities or building places, and fostering collaboration and reducing inequalities.

Equally, we encourage projects that align with the council's wider strategic aims, details of which can be found here: <https://www.easthants.gov.uk/our-organisation/performance-and-strategy>.

To apply and for further information and examples of the types of projects that can be funded please visit: <https://www.easthants.gov.uk/community-and-living/community-grants/councillor-community-grant-scheme>

**Applications can be made throughout the year, until the councillor has spent all of their allocated funds. For this financial year, applications must be received no later than Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2027.**

### **Who can apply?**

- Not-for-profit organisations
- Voluntary or community groups
- Charities

### **Project criteria**

- Application must not be retrospective - that is to replace money already spent, or to cover items, services or events that have already been purchased or occurred.
- Your project must have started within twelve months from receipt of funds.
- The maximum you can receive from a single councillor is £2,000.
- Your project must benefit five or more people from the wider community.
- You should only submit one application form per project, so ensure all councillor contributions are on one form.
- You must have obtained (or be in the process of obtaining) any permissions required to deliver the project/service.

- Councillors may support ongoing revenue costs (such as event-related expenses, rent, and utilities) where these are essential to delivering community benefit.

### **We cannot fund**

- Religious organisations must be able to demonstrate that the funding will benefit the wider, non-religious community. Funding will not be available to any organisation solely for religious purposes or for the promotion of religion.
- Costs related to salaries or employment of staff.
- Political or lobbying activities.
- Organisations which have already received any grant funding from EHDC for the same project (organisations that have received CIL or Section 106 funding are eligible to apply for councillor grants for the same project).
- Costs payable to EHDC, for example planning fees, licensing fees, business rates etc.

Please note: grant criteria are reviewed regularly and may be subject to change. We reserve the right to refuse an application that we feel does not meet the aims of the grant scheme.

Successful projects should also engage the ward councillor who funded them for relevant promotional opportunities, ensuring visibility of community benefits.

Successful applications will be required to complete a monitoring form and provide receipts and photographs where appropriate.

### **Checklist for applying**

Please ensure you include the following:

1. **Organisation's constitution** - *For support with your constitution or governance please contact Community First via [support@cfirst.org.uk](mailto:support@cfirst.org.uk) or visit <https://www.cfirst.org.uk/resources>*

*If you are a registered charity you do not need to submit your governance documents but please provide your charity registration number.*

2. **Quotation/evidence of costs**

Please note: funding is not guaranteed until you are notified of a successful application.