

Councillor Community Fund

Introduction to using the Councillor Community Fund

Alice Morgan – Community Development Officer

Background

- Introduced following the findings of the Scrutiny Panel 3: Councillor Empowerment Fund, in December 2011.
- Since its introduction in 2012, there have been over 700 grants made, at a total of £405,000.00 over the last 3 years.
- £3000 is allocated to each Councillor. Unspent funds are carried over every year, up to the end of term.

Financial Regulations

- All have a general responsibility :
 - for taking reasonable action to provide for the security of the assets under their control,
 - for ensuring that the use of these resources is legal, is properly authorised, provides value for money and achieves best value.
- Apply to every Member and Officer of the Authority and anyone acting on their behalf.
- No-one may incur expenditure which cannot be met from the approved budget.



Financial Regulations

Training sessions:

Councillor Briefing: Raising Financial Awareness (Including the Council's Finance)

Thursday 18th June

3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Rules and regulations

Funding can't be used for anything :

- × That is unlawful
- × That breaches the Council's constitution.
- × That breaches the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity
- × That breaches statutory provisions relating to elections and referendums
- × Which is contrary to the Council's commitments to local people.
- × Which commits the Council or partners to ongoing funding without explicit approval.

Rules and regulations

- × Which advocate positions of Political Groups.
- × Which does not directly benefit residents within that Councillor's ward
- × Which exclusively support or promote religion or religious belief.
- × That is proposed by profit making organisations or businesses
- × That legally should be provided by Local Authorities or statutory bodies.

Other things to bare in mind:

- Avoid conflicts of interest
- Comply with the Model Code of Conduct for Councillors

Funding can be used for:

- ✓ Enhancing the community representation role of the Councillor
- ✓ Any purpose which in the opinion of the Councillor will enhance the economic, social and environmental well-being of their ward or part.
- ✓ Providing information to constituents, or seeking the views of constituents, whether about the Council or about any other matter affecting the economic, social or environmental well-being of the ward or that part of the ward.
- ✓ Councillors may co-operate with other Councillors on any authorised use and may pool their fund allocations for this purpose.

The application form

- Part A – to be completed and signed by a representative of the organisation to be funded.
- Part B – to be completed by the Ward Councillor(s)
- Terms and conditions attached to the application form, for both the organisation to be funded and the Ward Councillor (s)
- Application forms reviewed by the Partnerships and Communities team, and authorised by the Partnerships and Communities Manager, or the Director of Customers and Communities.
- Please allow at least 2 weeks for application forms to be processed.
- Challenging decisions – Partnerships and Communities team
- Monitoring



Examples of schemes supported

- New play equipment and Youth Shelters
- Set up costs of new community groups
- Contribution towards community projects
- Environmental works
- Purchasing of new equipment for pre-schools and after school clubs
- Support of Community Centres – repairs, improvements, support
- Junior Warden schemes
- Contributions towards community events



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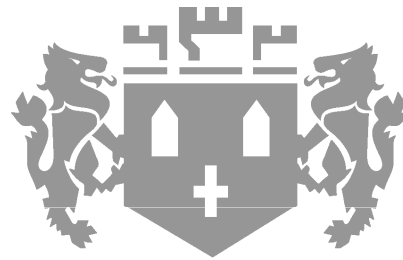
Good ideas

- Supporting your community
- Community involvement in spending your funding
- Using the funding – match funding, seed funding.
- Working with other agencies
- Partnerships and Communities Team – working on a day to day basis with Voluntary and Community Sector.

Useful contacts

- Partnerships and Communities team:
alicemorgan@northampton.gov.uk
01604 837795
- Partnership Unit:
punit@northampton.gov.uk
- Neighbourhood Wardens and Park Rangers:
ehealth@northampton.gov.uk
parkrangerteam@northampton.gov.uk
- Community Safety:
communitysafety@northampton.gov.uk

Questions?



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