



Lowestoft Town Council Grant Awarding Policy

1.0 General Information for Applicants

- 1.1 Lowestoft Town Council has statutory powers to make funds available to local organisations for the overall benefit of Lowestoft and its residents. These provide an option (not an obligation) to make grants and Lowestoft Town Council has adopted this policy to help guide relevant decisions. Any groups or organisations wishing to apply for a grant should read this policy carefully.
- 1.2 In addition to outlining Lowestoft Town Council's guidelines for awarding grants, this document also formalises the application process to provide clarity, openness and fairness. The Town Council reserves the right to deviate from this policy where it considers it appropriate to do so.
- 1.3 It is Lowestoft Town Council's intention to support initiatives from local community groups and organisations and it has set an annual budget for this. Applications will be considered every three months by the Finance and Governance Committee (for further details on when grant applications are considered, please see 8.1 of this policy). The annual budget set is the maximum budgeted total amount for all grants and does not represent an obligation by the Town Council to spend this money on grants.
- 1.4 The size of any grant awarded is at the discretion of the Town Council, but would not normally exceed £2,000 in any one application.
- 1.5 Where the application provides a breakdown of costs, a quotation or other supporting evidence must be provided in respect of the sum being applied for.

2.0 Who is Eligible?

- 2.1 The following organisations are eligible to apply:
 - a. Lowestoft-based charities, clubs, associations, groups or other organisations whose activities benefit all or some of the Lowestoft community.
 - b. Local branches of regional or national charities, clubs, associations, groups or other organisations whose activities benefit all or some of the Lowestoft community.

3.0 Who is not Eligible?

- 3.1 Applications will normally be rejected:
 - a. From statutory bodies or for statutory purposes normally funded through the taxpayer or central government funding.
 - b. From individuals, private businesses and "for profit" commercial organisations or for projects which improve or benefit privately owned land or property.
 - c. From regional and national organisations unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the grant would be used specifically for Lowestoft residents.
 - d. From organisations with political or religious affiliations unless for a specific non-discriminatory purpose offered without exclusivity to a particular political group or religion.
 - e. From organisations or in connection with projects which negatively discriminate.



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4.0 What Can Be Funded?

- 4.1 It is expected that the project will:
- a. In some significant way make Lowestoft a better place to live, work or play.
 - b. Provide a long lasting and sustainable benefit to all or part of Lowestoft.
 - c. Improve the social, environmental and/or economic profile of Lowestoft.
 - d. Add value and help make projects self-sustaining

5.0 What Is Unlikely to be Funded?

- 5.1 It is unlikely that projects will be considered where:
- a. They simply replace existing facilities with no significant improvement (funding to replace equipment that is demonstrably end-of-life may be considered).
 - b. There is no clear business or project plan.
 - c. On larger budget projects with a budget in excess of £2,000, where there is a shortfall with limited or no other contributory funding, unless a decision is required to secure match funding.
 - d. The project or applicant has been previously funded and there has been a failure to comply with the conditions of grants detailed below.
 - e. Expenditure on general business overheads (running costs).

6.0 Conditions of Grant

- 6.1 It is a condition of acceptance of a grant that:
- a. Lowestoft Town Council support must be acknowledged appropriately on all related publicity and promotional material including posters, advertisements, press releases and leaflets.
 - b. Grants awarded can only be used for the purpose for which they were given and in compliance with any conditions applied.
 - c. Grants must not be distributed to any other organisation, other than as agreed as part of the grant award.
 - d. The outcome and impact of the grant must be reported to the Council within six months of the grant being made. The Council reserves the right to specify the form, content and any different timescale for reporting. Grant recipients should complete and return the attached proforma to provide the council with the required information.

7.0 What factors will be considered as part of the decision making?

- 7.1 The following are among those matters which are likely to be taken into account:
- a. General eligibility
 - b. Organisational credibility
 - c. Impact on identified local need
 - d. Community support
 - e. Value for money
 - f. Any match-funding and other efforts to self-fund the project
 - g. Social, environmental or economic impact
 - h. Community involvement
 - i. Likely effectiveness



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- j. Soundness of the business or project plan
- k. Added value and sustainability

8.0 When Will Decisions Be Made?

8.1 Applications will be considered by the Finance and Governance Committee every three months (at its meetings in March, June, September and December). Where it can be demonstrated that urgent consideration is required, the Committee reserves the right to consider the grant application outside of the three-month cycle. If you feel that your application requires consideration outside of the regular three-monthly cycle please ensure this is clearly indicated on your application form. Please refer to Lowestoft Town Council's website (www.lowestofttowncouncil.gov.uk) for the meeting schedules or contact the office on 0330 053 6019/ admin@lowestofttowncouncil.gov.uk for details.

Revisions	
Date	Amendment
February 2021	Amendment made to reflect Council's decision that applications will be considered quarterly, rather than twice per year (with effect from the Annual Meeting in May 2021).
June 2021	Removed the sentence ' <i>For sports clubs, a grant fund is available equivalent to the sum Lowestoft Town Council receives via income from the clubs.</i> ' from point 1.3, as it is not applicable for the 2021 – 2022 year.
June 2021	Amended the amount specified at point 1.3 from £500 to £2,000.
June 2021	Amended point 8.1 to reflect that applications will be considered monthly rather than quarterly.
July 2021	Added point 1.5 to specify that a quotation or supporting evidence must be provided where there is a breakdown of costs.
November 2021	Amended point 1.3 to reflect that applications are now considered monthly rather than quarterly. Also removed reference to sports clubs as not applicable under the fee waiver.
November 2021	At point 5.1d added 'unless a decision is required to secure match funding'.
November 2021	At points 7.2a and 7.2b replaced references to specific years to 'the preceding year'.
May 2022	Point 5a removed (There is a large shortfall in the funding required to complete the project). 'On larger budget projects with a budget in excess of £2,000, where there is a shortfall' added at point 5c. Point 5d removed (The project or applicant has been



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	<p>provided with a Council grant recently, especially in one or more of the previous three years). Words 'or equivalent' added at sections a and b of the application form.</p>
October 2022	<p>Amended point 1.3 and 8.1 to reflect the decision for applications to be considered every three months, rather than monthly.</p>
November 2024	<p>8.1 amended with additional wording "<i>Where it can be demonstrated that urgent consideration is required, the Committee reserves the right to consider the grant application outside of the three-month cycle</i>".</p> <p>1.3 includes reference to 8.1 with wording "<i>(for further details on when grant applications are considered, please see 8.1 of this policy)</i>."</p> <p>5.1a added "<i>(funding to replace equipment that is demonstrably end-of-life may be considered)</i>."</p>