

Appendix 1

Cherwell District Council Wellbeing Grants 2023 - 2025

The following framework describes how Cherwell District Council provides grants to voluntary and community organisations. These grants help build and support thriving communities and improve the quality of life for residents.

We consider the impact the funding and consequent work will have in the achievement of the Council's stated business plan objective of healthy, resilient, and engaged communities. Funding given to the voluntary sector must facilitate the achievement of one of the following aims:

- Support and encourage active lifestyles and health and wellbeing.
- Support development of leisure services and facilities meeting the needs of residents.
- Support community and cultural development.
- Work towards our commitment to equalities, diversity, and inclusion.
- Work with partners to address the causes of health inequality and deprivation.
- Work with partners to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour.

We recognise the value of the voluntary sector locally delivering key services to our residents and their need for grant income.

Local voluntary organisations who are actively exploring partnership/joint working with other voluntary organisations, businesses, or the public sector and/or other methods to help them to become more sustainable and have a greater impact in the communities they serve, are encouraged to prepare development plans. Plans should cover target group, level of intervention and investment and projected outcomes.

Grants may be given following an open bidding round or funding agreed following the acceptance of an agreed development plan. Rarely will the council totally fund a programme of work or development plan. Indications of match funding from trusts and foundations, public funds or earned income will be expected.

Each open round will be against a scheme approved by Executive and decision on final funding delegated to senior officers and the appropriate Executive member / Portfolio Holder.

Where funding follows a development plan the operational decision will sit with an officer within their delegated authority and budget limit.

Statement of principles

- Organisations should be non-profit making, have a constitution or set of rules and be able to provide annual financial statements (audited where appropriate) or an annual report (unless as a new organisation in its first year of operation when a budget statement would be required).
- Services provided must be in accordance with the existing objectives of the Council, as published in the Council's Business Plan and Annual Delivery Plan.

Appendix 1

Organisations must

- be open to all, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.
- be able to demonstrate that, either through the direct provision of services or by other means, it benefits the people of Cherwell thereby enhancing the quality of life for the local community, specifically in line with the aims outlined above.
- have appropriate policies in place for example equalities, diversity, and inclusion, as well as safeguarding.
- have a separate bank account in the name of the organisation.
- be willing to sign up to the council's standard terms and conditions of grant ..
- Submit monitoring and evaluation data so the impact of the work can be assessed in line with expectation.
- Spend the grant in the manner prescribed for that sole purpose. The council reserves the right of repayment should the grant not be used appropriately.

The Council's support should be clearly acknowledged on all suitable printed material and signage using the corporate logo where applicable and subject to prior approval. The Council should be notified of any appropriate launch dates, opening events, general meetings, and other relevant events.

Exclusions for grant .

- The Council will not fund political groups or projects that promote political beliefs, religious groups or activities promoting religious beliefs or animal welfare charities.
- Applications from religious, faith based, groups may be considered if the organisation can demonstrate that the project is of wider community benefit and does not involve the promotion of religion or belief.
- The Council will not normally approve grants retrospectively towards projects that have already taken place or expenditure that has already been committed.

Award Letters

A grant award letter will be issued to successful applicants detailing the amount awarded, the purpose of the grant, any outputs to be achieved (such as a statement of expected outcomes and/or Service Level Agreement), conditions of the award and monitoring requirements.

Measuring and Celebrating Success

Monitoring arrangements will be specified in the offer letter. These will be tailored specifically to the organisation and may involve reports, feedback from service users and monitoring visits. Grants over £30,000 will be subject to a Service Level Agreement.

Any failure by the grant recipient to provide the requested information may result in a requirement to repay the grant monies to the Council. The success of an organisation in delivering its service or project because of grant . will be measured and celebrated. The Council will promote the success of grant applicants in relation to their grant award.