



**GENERAL CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING GRANT APPLICATIONS**

The Council will use the following criteria for determining grant applications:

Grants will be awarded at the discretion of the Council and applicants should:

- Be a not-for-profit organisation, with clearly stated aims and objectives. The organisation must submit its constitution and annual report and latest available accounts. The Council also encourages organisations to produce policy statements on equal opportunities, health and safety and environmental factors.
- Operate for the benefit of the residents of the District.
- Contribute to the Council’s Service Aims and to Community Strategy Themes.

<b>Council Service Aims</b>	<b>Community Strategy Themes</b>
A Better Quality of Life A Sustainable Environment A Vibrant Local Economy A Well Run and Responsive Council	Communities that are Safe and Feel Safe A Better Environment for Today and Tomorrow Economic Success Shared by All Improving Health and Wellbeing Meeting the Needs of Children and Young People Stronger Communities

- Demonstrate proper conduct of its affairs, both general and financial, and that it has the adequate expertise to carry out the activities proposed. A business plan should be submitted.
- Demonstrate the level of user support and the need for Council support.
- Explain intended use of any grant awarded, and be prepared to provide indicators on how effective the grant is in achieving its aims during the grant year.
- Show that every effort is being made to raise funds from other appropriate sources and that voluntary assistance is being maximised.
- Provide a service that fulfils a demonstrable need.
- Demonstrate that service(s) provided can be more appropriately carried out by the voluntary organisation than by the Council itself.
- Demonstrate that it provides an appropriate service that is complementary to and adds value to the services provided by the District Council and / or other voluntary organisations.

### **Financial Considerations**

When determining the level of revenue grant to be recommended for acceptance, the District Council will consider the following:

- The financial standing of the organisation.
- The likelihood of additional funding or support in kind to the organisation from external sources other than the Council (in which case Council funding would be very unlikely).
- The level of reserves, except where these are shown to be earmarked for a particular objective (e.g. new building, replacement minibuses).
- Evidence of prudent reserves to meet salary costs and other contingencies that might arise from time to time. As a general rule, reserves exceeding 50% of a year's gross expenditure would need explanation.

### **Priority for Funding**

Organisations:

- Which meet the Council's community vision for Wyre Forest District, working with our local partners.
- Which can provide a service which would otherwise need to be performed by the Council as a statutory responsibility (the inference being that the voluntary organisation can provide a better quality and / or more cost effective service).
- Which provide an important service which enhances, supports or is in substitution of a Council service.
- Providing a support service to vulnerable groups and are unable to secure funding from any other source.