

Introduction

Winchester City Council recognises the important role that community & voluntary organisations have in delivering key services to the people and communities of the Winchester district. As such the council's grant funding programme is aimed at supporting voluntary and not-for-profit groups and organisations in the district that can clearly demonstrate how their services and projects positively impact the most disadvantaged areas, communities, and groups.

In 2026/27 the council is providing operational funding grants from the **Healthy and Thriving Communities Fund**. This scheme will be open for applications on Thursday 5th February, with a **closing date of 12 noon, Thursday 26th February**.

Grants are also available from the Winchester City Community and District Small Grants Fund, the details of which can be found on the website: <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/grants-for-not-for-profit-organisations>

Application deadline for these grant funds is 12 noon on Thursday 12th February 2026. Each fund has a specific application process, and some differences with regard to whom is eligible to apply, and the outcomes sought.

If you have any questions about which fund you should be applying to, or you require any assistance with completing the form, or are a new applicant, please contact Funding & Development Officer: Rachael Corrie, rcorrie@winchester.gov.uk, 01962 848 256 in the first instance.

Healthy and Thriving Communities Fund

This is a competitive fund for applications up to a maximum of £5,000 for delivery in one financial year. All organisations will be viewed as first time applicants and will therefore need to provide all information requested.

We recommend that all applicants contact the Funding and Development Officer before making an application: Rachael Corrie, rcorrie@winchester.gov.uk, 01962 848 256.

Who can apply:

- Local not-for-profit groups, community organisations, and registered charities that operate out of premises in the Winchester district.
- Grants will only be awarded to groups and organisations whose activities are of direct benefit to the residents of the Winchester district.

- Every group and organisation should have a constitution which includes a formal decision-making process, and aims that are acceptable to the council.
- In the case of registered charities they must comply with the standards laid down by the Charity Commission.

What you can apply for:

Operational/core running costs that enable services to be delivered that meet the required outcomes. This includes:

- Building / premises costs associated with the delivery of your services: heating, electricity, rent, rates insurance etc.
- Staffing costs: salaries, training, expenses
- Other: equipment and materials relating to service provision

We are unable to fund:

Organisations	Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish and Town Councils • Statutory organisations • Commercial organisations • Individuals • Uniformed groups • Community associations • Organisations whose sole purpose is managing a community building for hiring by other users • Sports clubs • Councils for Voluntary Service • Organisations whose main objective is to raise funds for other Charitable organisations • Political organisations • Schools and pre-schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local or national appeals and fundraising activities • Student expeditions • Play areas • Activities which are of a wholly and exclusively political or religious nature, or organisations supporting political activism

Funding Priorities and Outcomes

CREATING HEALTHY AND THRIVING COMMUNITIES

Organisations applying for funds must demonstrate how the work helps achieve the council's healthy and thriving community outcomes to create healthier, stronger, and thriving communities where our most vulnerable residents feel safe, supported and can easily access the services they need. The council is keen to support work that increases participation in local community groups/activities and enables/encourages volunteering.

Council priorities



HEALTHY & THRIVING COMMUNITIES FUND PRIORITIES

	Fund Priority		
Priorities	Social connection, inclusion and belonging	Access to a diverse range of community assets, services, and opportunities	Supporting people facing the toughest circumstances
Outcomes	Residents experience stronger social ties, reduced isolation, and a greater sense of belonging to their neighbourhoods.	People can easily engage in activities that support their wellbeing, values, skills, and social participation.	Individuals and families with long-term vulnerabilities feel supported, connected, and able to participate in community life.
Associated health and wellbeing priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Social isolationDigital access	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Physical activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mental health & wellbeingInclusion health groupsOlder peopleCost of living

For more detail about our health and wellbeing priorities, please refer to the council's [Health Priorities Statement](#).

We expect this fund to be oversubscribed and therefore priority will be given to applications that demonstrate multiple outcomes. We are looking for organisations who can demonstrate and evidence their work supports those communities/groups facing multiple challenges in the Winchester district.

Application

This is a competitive fund, and each application will be assessed and scored against the grant eligibility and criteria.

At the time the application is submitted, to enable the council to assess applications fully, all sections must be completed with all the information you wish considered together with all the documents requested. There will not be a further opportunity to provide additional details.

Applications should be made via the official application form and must be submitted by the published deadline found on our website. We are not able to consider revenue grant requests outside of the normal timetable for awards.

The council's decisions with regards to funding are discretionary and no appeals process is available.

Required Information

For the application to be accepted, applicants must comply with all the following:

- Applications must reflect costs which will be incurred for the appropriate financial year.
- Applications to cover financial deficits from previous financial years will not be considered.
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate financial sustainability for the period of the grant award. Any significant budget deficit must be accounted for, and the council has the right to withdraw any offer of grant aid if, on scrutiny, it becomes apparent that the organisation is not sustainable over the period of the financial year.
- Applicants should have a constitution which includes a formal decision-making process, and aims that are aligned with the council's values.
- All applicants must provide clear evidence that they have adequate Third-Party Public Liability and Employers' Liability Insurance.
- Organisations that provide direct legal or financial advice must have the relevant accreditation/compliance.

- Organisations working with children, young people or vulnerable adults must have a robust protection policy in place and ensure that all active staff and volunteers have undertaken a DBS check.
- Organisations should have the relevant policies and permissions in place to provide their service.

If your organisation does not have the appropriate policies in place, please contact an organisation such as [Community First](#).

Award Process

All applications are subject to a scoring process which appraises the following key points:

- A clear description of the organisation's purpose and of the service(s) to be delivered.
- Capacity and capability to deliver in the locations and to the groups identified, including track record and successes.
- Evidence of service demand and beneficiary need within the Winchester district.
- Defined and quantified outputs and outcomes which are clearly linked to the council's published priorities and outcomes.
- Commitment to collaborative and partnership working.
- A clear description of how the money will be spent on eligible activities, value for money and affordability.
- Financial position and evidence of financial need associated with the grant application.
- All required information, policies, and documentation have been provided.

If the fund is over-subscribed, the council reserves the right to offer a grant at a value lower than the application request.

If during the application assessment the council identifies opportunities to link to or support other organisations and or services, we will ask that this be considered in your delivery approach.

Grant Terms

Successful applicants must enter into a grant agreement with the council.

Successful applicants must provide a written report (at a minimum annually), detailing how the grant from has been spent and what activities it has enabled.

Organisations must not change the use of the grant award for which it has been approved unless otherwise agreed in writing by the council.

Successful applicants will be required to gather information related to social value measurements in order to help demonstrate the impact of the council's grant. This will include spend on goods/services locally, grant funding leveraged, beneficiaries support into

training and employment, local students' placements, number of days/hours of active volunteering and number of paid local staff.

Voluntary organisations that provide support to asylum seekers and to individuals subject to a No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) condition will be considered for funding, provided activities are deemed to be lawful and reasonable in line with Immigration Rules.

The council has a statutory duty to promote equality through all its services. By grant funding voluntary organisations, it is expected that these groups will also promote equality of opportunity for all sections of the community through the services they provide.

Organisations will be expected to demonstrate that they have an open access / equal opportunities approach towards membership, use of their facilities and activities.

Organisations should take reasonable steps to ensure their activities can be made available for as broad a range of people as possible and that positive measures are put in place to remove any barriers to access. Advice and support on matters of equality is available from Community First or similar organisations.

For organisations which have not been awarded council funding before, the council would pay the grant in two instalments: 70% initially with 30% after a 6-month review.

Application Process timeline

Application deadline – Thursday 26th February, 12 noon

Funding period and Impact reporting commences – 1st April 2026

