



## GREENER FASTER SMALL GRANTS SCHEME 2026/27

### APPLICATION CRITERIA AND PRIORITIES

#### **Winchester District Greener Faster Small Grant Scheme 2026/2027**

The Winchester district Greener Faster small grant scheme is designed to provide small-scale, **one-off grants of up to £1,000 to local voluntary/not-for-profit groups** and organisations that aim to benefit their local community and promote the council's Greener Faster objectives.

Funding is targeted at activities that require one-off expenditure or initial set up costs. Grants are available for one-off items of expenditure on projects, equipment and other items which will help your organisation to do more, to reach more people, to provide better services or to try something different.

Unfortunately, these grants cannot be used towards the ongoing operational costs of delivering your usual activities. Organisations applying for funds must demonstrate how the work helps achieve the council's Greener Faster strategic objectives.

We update our criteria from time to time so please make sure you read the documentation carefully and let us know if you have any queries. The community grants team can help with any questions you have about the scheme and can support applicants to make an application. The team can be contacted by email: [grants@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:grants@winchester.gov.uk).

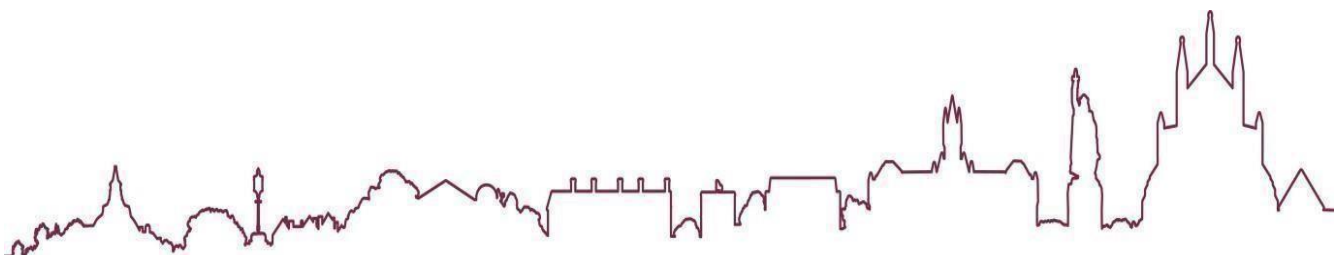
#### **Key Dates:**

Fund closes to applications: **12noon on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2026**. We anticipate awarding grants to successful applicants by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2026.

#### **Who can apply:**

Local not-for-profit organisations that operate for the direct benefit of residents of the Winchester District. Please see our [Ward Map](#) for more information. The following organisation types are eligible:

- Local not-for-profit groups
- Registered charities
- Community organisations
- Community Interest Companies limited by guarantee



**Please note:**

- Organisations applying will need to demonstrate community benefit.
- Every group and organisation should have a constitution or documentation which includes a formal decision-making process and aims that are acceptable to Winchester City Council.
- In the case of registered charities, they must comply with the standards laid down by the Charity Commission.
- If you are a school/pre-school or an organisation working with one, your activity must benefit the wider community outside of the school/pre-school.

We are **unable to fund** applications from:

- Town or Parish Councils
- Commercial organisations
- Community Interest Companies limited by shares
- Individuals
- Organisations whose main objective is to raise funds for other charitable organisations

**What you can apply for:**

You can apply for a grant to cover the following costs:

- One off cost of unique activities or special events\*
- Purchase of additional equipment or materials
- Set up costs for new groups
- Marketing material

\*Grants for unique events can be used towards items which will enable the event to take place such as venue hire, signage or equipment hire/purchase. We are unable to fund entertainment and refreshment costs.

These grants are intended to provide small scale funding and are unlikely to be awarded as a contribution to a large-scale project, unless the grant would complete your fundraising target.

**Funding Priorities:**

**Greener Faster**

With this grant scheme we want to achieve the following outcomes:

- The Winchester District to be carbon neutral by 2030
- Reduced waste and increased recycling
- Cleaner air than national targets
- Better protection against extreme climate events
- Increased proportion of journeys by public transport, foot or bike
- Reversing the long-term decline in nature and biodiversity

We expect competition for these grants to be high, and priority will be given to applications that demonstrate multiple outcomes. Applicants must explain how the grant will help their organisation deliver one or more of the council's funding priorities listed above.

### **We are unable to fund:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Local or national appeals</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Costs payable to WCC, for example, planning fees, licensing fees, etc.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Play areas (eg. large equipment for public playgrounds)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>School or preschool projects unless there is wider community benefit</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Activities which are of a political or religious nature, or organisations supporting political activism (we can fund religious organisations if their project benefits the wider community and doesn't include religious content).</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>General running costs of an organisation. Staffing costs will only be considered if these are additional time limited costs incurred as a direct result of delivering your project. We can't support salaries for existing staff usually covered by other income.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Replacement or "like for like" equipment/items</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Fundraising events/activities for your organisation or others</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Projects of a statutory nature</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Retrospective funding of activities or projects</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Activities/events that make a profit and have no financial need for our grant</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Repeat activities or projects</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Websites</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>VAT you can reclaim</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Events or activities that charge an entrance fee or a fee to take part (unless there is a provision to include those who might otherwise be excluded due to affordability)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Projects or activities that have received funding in previous years via this scheme or from other council funds</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Professional fees and licenses including feasibility studies, planning fees, permits and event licenses.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Student expeditions</li></ul>

If you're not sure, please contact us ([grants@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:grants@winchester.gov.uk)) to find out what you can spend the grant on.

### **Application process:**

This is a competitive fund, and each application will be assessed 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.

Applications should be made via the Flexigrant online system and submitted by the agreed deadline of **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June**. Follow this link to apply here now: [Flexigrant](#). If this is difficult for you, we can find an alternative way for you to apply – please contact the team by emailing [grants@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:grants@winchester.gov.uk) or calling 01962 848269.

### **Award Process:**

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

- A clear description of the organisation's purpose and description of the project to be delivered.
- Clear evidence of need and engagement with the local community.
- Evidence that the project is open to all.
- Evidence of how the project meets one or more funding priorities listed.
- Evidence that measures are in place to evaluate the success of the project.
- A clear description of how the money will be spent on eligible activities, value for money and affordability.
- 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.

**We anticipate awarding grants by 31<sup>st</sup> August.** If you require funding in a shorter timeframe, please contact us before starting an application to check timescales. You should aim to begin your project from September 2026 onwards. **We cannot fund activities that are already underway.**

Funding decisions are delegated to Winchester City Council's Funding Officer and Corporate Head of Economy and Community. The council's decisions with regards to funding are final and no appeals process is available.

### **Eligibility Criteria:**

In order to be eligible for consideration, applicants must comply with all of the following criteria:

1. Organisations applying for funding must be able to support one or more of our funding priorities.
2. Organisations/groups applying for a grant must have a current bank account in the name of the organisation/group. Winchester City Council will not make grant payments to individuals, even if they are an official of the organisation.
3. Activities which have already received funding through this grant scheme will not be eligible for further funding for the same activity in subsequent years. Records are kept of all previous applications and awards.
4. Only one grant from this funding scheme will be given to an organisation in any one financial year.
5. 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. If your organisation does not have the appropriate policies in place, support is available from Community First [Home - Community First \(cfirst.org.uk\)](http://cfirst.org.uk) .
6. Organisations/groups must be able to demonstrate that they have an open access/equal opportunities approach towards membership, use of their facilities and activities. Groups are

required to 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.

7. 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.
8. Organisations/groups must have the appropriate public liability and employer's liability insurance for the activities they provide.
9. Organisations should have the relevant policies and permissions in place in order to provide their service.

### **Grant Terms**

1. Any spend by the organisation prior to formal notification from the council, will make the organisation/group ineligible for funding.
2. Winchester City Council reserves the right to fund less than the amount requested in the application form.
3. Organisations/groups must not change the use of the grant award and must spend the grant on the purpose for which it was approved unless agreed otherwise in writing by the Funding and Development Officer at Winchester City Council.
4. All grant recipients will be required to publicise the support of Winchester City Council including the use of the appropriate council logo on publicity material. Guidance on this will be sent to successful applicants
5. For grants of up to £1,000 payment will be made in advance of expenditure, following formal notification of the grant and receipt of the signed Funding Agreement. Funds will be released in one payment. All grant recipients will be required to explain how they used their grant within three months of spending the grant. The organisation must submit to the council a short project completion report, to confirm that the money was spent on the approved purpose, or the council may seek to reclaim its funding.
6. If grant funding is used inappropriately, or the applicant fails to respect the conditions attached to the grant, the council may demand reimbursement of any funds already paid out or take other measures to recoup the funds.
7. Funding decisions are delegated to Corporate Head of Economy and Community. The council's decisions with regards to funding are final and no appeals process is available.