

ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL GRANT AID FUNDING 2023-24 GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS

Aims of Funding

Ashington Town Council aims to promote and protect the quality of life and well-being of those who live in, work in, or visit the local area. To this end, the Council offer grants to local organisations based in, or providing services to the locality, to help them maintain and develop their services, facilities, and activities.

The Council has a long history of funding sports clubs and local charities with annual subsidies, and of making funding available to provide smaller grants throughout the year.

Annual Grant Aid Funding

The Annual Grant Aid Funding process is open, and the Council has set aside £80,000 for this purpose in the financial year 2023/24.

The Council aims to strengthen links with funded groups throughout the year as a means of mutually sharing decisions, activities, and events, but also to ensure good governance. Recipients of grants of over £5,000 will be expected to provide updates throughout the year, with particular emphasis on how funding has been spent, and the Council will pay funding quarterly on the production of reports.

The Council will to seek public recognition of awards by recipients and will publicise the awards made to demonstrate to use of public funds. We will invite recipients of grants to attend events and engagement organised by the Council to promote networking and sharing of best practice.

Those organisations who seek funding of £3,000 or more will be asked to deliver a presentation, in addition to completing the required application form. These will be arranged in advance of decisions taken on 14th June.

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The Council has agreed funding criteria which applicants must ensure they meet before applying. Community groups and organisations that are missing any of the criteria required are encouraged to contact the Council to discuss this. We would like to support groups to be able to apply, where possible.

Funding Criteria that must be met

Grant Aid is for voluntary, non-profit making organisations who provide facilities, activities, and services principally for residents served by Ashington Town Council.

Typically, these organisations include sports, play, and art clubs, community associations, youth organisations, organisations that assist disadvantaged/vulnerable groups and charitable trusts.

To be eligible to apply for funding from Ashington Town Council, you must be able to provide the following:

- ✓ A constitution or governing document, or written aims and objectives.
- ✓ Up-to-date financial information, including latest accounts and bank statement.
- ✓ A set a basic core policies:
 - Health & Safety

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- Equality and Diversity
- Safeguarding
- Data Protection and GDPR
- Risk Management
- Complaints Procedure

For what can grants be used?

Annual Grant Aid Funding can be used for capital (e.g. purchasing tools and equipment) or revenue expenditure (e.g. running costs) and/or as 'start-up' funding for new bodies.

Organisations that will not be funded

- X Individuals
- X Business organisations whose aim is profit
- X National charities (unless specific direct services are provided within the local area)
- X Schools
- X Religious Establishments
- X Other organisations operating from outside Ashington (unless specific direct services are provided within the local area, or these organisations contribute to the wellbeing of the Town and its residents)

Priorities

When allocating Grant Aid, the Council will consider each case on its merits and may give priority to those groups providing services and facilities and/or fulfilling a role where there are currently 'gaps' in provision.

Timeline

Annual Grants launched	Thursday 20 th April
Closing Date	Friday 19 th May
Presentations (if applicable)	w/c 22 nd May
Decisions	Tuesday 13 th June