AGENDA 7, Enc vii) Small Grants Summary Report (3rd Round - October 2026)

1. Introduction
This report summarises the outcomes of the Small Grants scheme assessment round completed in October 2026. It sets out the applications received, the awards made, and the applications declined.

2. Summary of Outcomes
A total of eight applications were considered during this round: six were approved for funding and two were declined.

Total grant funding awarded: £5,490, made up of six awards ranging from £500 to £1,000.

3. Successful Applicants
All successful applicants were assessed against, and met, the scheme's eligibility criteria prior to their grant being approved.

Blossoming Communities awarded £1,000
The funding will towards running an arts and craft project with 15 residents from Ashington. The project will be inspired by the pitman painters to use the 'everyday' sights and activities that take place in Ashington as a way to create art.

The aim would be to get people to look at the positive elements of living in Ashington, evoke some civic pride as well the benefits of participating. The workshops will take place in The Susan Kennedy Centre and will culminate in a public exhibition/celebration and distribution of a booklet containing the images of the art and the stories behind those images.

Friends of Ashington Community Woods awarded £500
The £500 will provide prizes for the contestants of their annual hedge laying competition. Also including the preparation of the site for the competition and to provide food and drinks for the competitors and visitors.

Koast Radio awarded £1,000
The funding will go towards a replacement mixer desk in the main studio which is now faulty. A temporary older mixer desk is being used but if this develops any further issues there would be an impact on broadcasting.

The mixer desk Koast Radio are looking to purchase is a D & R Airlite MkII-USB at a cost of £2,199. The grant funding would be a significant contribution towards that purchase whilst not covering the full cost they can look to fund the difference from reserves.

ROAB Social Club awarded £1,000
The club is a registered society on the FCA Mutual Public Register, not-for-profit with regulated mutual rule book. The funding will be used to refurbish the female toilet facilities, which are in dire need of repair and decoration.

The Club has a two ladies darts teams, as well as being used for social functions.

Seaton Hirst Allotment Association awarded £990
The association has been awarded £990.00 to purchase trees, plants and seeds for the allotment site. They wish to create a wildflower meadow on a plot of land that has been damaged by fire and suffers flooding. It is hoped that the project will encourage wildlife back, by protecting habitats and preserving native species. They wish to give back to nature and the environment that not only looks better but where wildlife will thrive.

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“This will mean a lot to us, after our recent problems. We can’t wait to get started, to try and repair the damage to the land. We’re grateful, thank you very much”. Pam Ingoe

Talking Marras awarded £1,000
The funding will enable to the group to pay towards hire charge which has been increased and purchase refreshments when they meet at the Hirst Welfare. The group has 16-20 members meeting on a weekly basis, in previous years refreshments have been given free of charge and rental costs were much lower.

4. Declined Applications
The following applications were declined, each for reasons set out below relating to eligibility or scheme requirements.

Northumberland Sensory Hub
Insufficient information provided to process the application in line with the eligibility criteria. The application was followed up to request missing information and to clarify location of sessions, but this remains unanswered at the moment. A further email has been sent to advise of next round.

GUST Independent School Limited
Insufficient information provided regarding the number of young people from Ashington who would benefit from the application.

5. Conclusion
All six successful applicants in the October 2026 round were confirmed as meeting the scheme's eligibility criteria before their grants were approved, and funding totalling £5,490 has been committed across a range of community projects.

The groups have a grant evaluation form to complete which will be followed-up in 3 months.

Applications that did not meet eligibility requirements failed to respond to requests for further information to enable eligibility requirements to be checked.

6. Small Grant Summary

Organisation	**Award**
Blossoming Communities	£1,000
Friends of Ashington Community Woods	£ 500
Koast Radio	£1,000
ROAB Social Club	£1,000
Seaton Hirst Allotment Association	£ 990
Talking Marras	£1,000
Total	**£5,490**
Remaining Budget	**£7,052**

The final round will be launched on 6th January with a closing date of 20th January.