

AGENDA 8, Enc vii) Small Grants Summary Report, Round Two – July 2026

1. Introduction

This report summarises the outcomes of the Small Grants received in the July round. It sets out the applications received, the awards made, and the applications declined.

2. Impact of the increased grant award

Prior to this round, the Council, on the recommendation of the Grants Working Group, took the decision to increase the maximum small grant award from £500 to £1,000, with the aim of increasing interest in the scheme and encouraging more applications from community groups.

Early indications are positive. The summer round typically attracts fewer than five applications; this round received ten, of which six were awarded. Application numbers over recent years are set out below for comparison, noting that two funding rounds remain in the current year.

Year	Applications received	Grants awarded
2023/24	23	19
2024/25	26	19
2025/26	19	13
2026/27 to date	13	9

The increased level of interest at this stage of the year is potentially attributable to the higher award, alongside the streamlined application process and the published eligibility criteria, which have made the scheme more accessible and transparent for community groups.

3. Summary of Outcomes

A total of ten applications were considered during this round: six were approved for funding, four could not be taken forward.

Total grant funding awarded: £5,898, made up of six awards ranging from £898 to £1,000.

4. Applications received and eligible - Awarded

Those applications that were successful were assessed against the Council's agreed criteria.

Ashington Camera Club awarded £1,000

The funding will go towards new digital display equipment to replace an outdated projector unable to meet modern photographic display standards.

Butokogan Judo Club awarded £898

The funding will be used for 60% of room hire, three coach revalidation courses, a promotional roller banner, and training equipment.

Northumberland County of Sanctuary awarded £1,000

The funding will pay for 32 weeks of room rent for an established art group providing a safe, creative space for asylum seekers.

Seaton Vale Neighbourhood Watch awarded £1,000

The funding will be used for Christmas, Easter and Halloween community events for residents, including decorations, activities and refreshments.

"This is absolutely fantastic news. I am delighted and this will go so far into maintaining the events we run throughout the year as we continue to grow them" Michael on behalf of Seaton Vale Neighbourhood Watch.

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Wansbeck Paddle Sports Club awarded £1,000

Funding will be used to buy Spray decks for 18 sea kayaks, supporting members progressing through sea kayak safety and rescue training.

Wansbeck Wanderers Walking FC awarded £1,000

Funding will be used for pitch fees for an annual charity walking football festival, plus rain jackets and kit for members.

5. Applications not taken forward in this round

The following applications could not be taken forward in this round. Where possible, applicants have been signposted to support so that an eligible application can be made in a future round.

Gladwins Ballet & Performance School Parents Group

Signposted to Thriving Together for support in becoming a separately constituted not-for-profit group with their own governing document and accounts as a minimum requirement, before an application can be considered.

Seaton Hirst Allotment Association

Funding request was retrospective and therefore not eligible.

The Garden Vegetable Society

Signposted to Thriving Together for support in becoming a constituted not-for-profit group with their own governing document and accounts as a minimum requirement, before an application can be considered.

Reiverdale Scout Group

Already awarded an annual grant from ATC in the current financial year.

6. Small Grant Summary Year To Date

RVS Social Centre	200.00
Ashington District Male Voice Choir	360.00
Wansbeck Community Links	500.00
Ashington Junior ParkRun	500.00
Wansbeck Wanderers Walking Football	1,000.00
Seaton Vale Neighbourhood Watch	1,000.00
Butokokan Judo Club	898.00
Ashington Camera Club	1,000.00
Wansbeck Paddle Sports Club	1,000.00
Northumberland County of Sanctuary	1,000.00
Total Awarded	£7,458.00
Budget Allocated	20,000.00
Remaining Budget	£12,542.00

There are two remaining rounds of small grant funding. Round 3 opens on 7th October, decisions before 28th October. Round 4 opens on 6th January 2027, decision before 27th January 2027. With £12,542 of the budget remaining and application numbers increased, the remaining rounds will continue to be promoted through the Council's communication channels to encourage further applications from community groups.