

Bishop Auckland Town Council

Grants and Donations Policy

1. Introduction

Bishop Auckland Town Council recognises the importance of supporting local organisations, events, and initiatives that enhance the wellbeing of residents and promote community cohesion. This policy sets out the framework for awarding grants and donations in a fair, transparent, and legally compliant manner.

2. Legal Powers

The Council will only award grants and donations under its statutory powers, primarily:

- **Local Government Act 1972, Section 137** – allows expenditure on activities that bring direct benefit to the area or its inhabitants, where no other specific power exists.
- **General Power of Competence (Localism Act 2011)** – where adopted, enables the Council to do anything an individual can do, subject to statutory limitations.

3. Scope

This policy covers:

- **Community Grants** – governed by the existing Community Grants Policy.
- **Donations** – discretionary financial contributions to large-scale events or organisations providing significant benefit to Bishop Auckland residents.

4. Objectives

- Support projects and services that improve quality of life.
- Encourage community engagement and participation.
- Enable the Council to contribute to major events or organisations aligned with its strategic priorities.

5. Definitions

- **Grant:** A sum of money awarded for a specific project or activity, subject to conditions.
- **Donation:** A discretionary financial contribution to an event or organisation without detailed project delivery requirements, but with clear community benefit.

6. Eligibility

Applications for donations may be made by:

- Charitable organisations.
- Voluntary and community groups.
- Community Interest Companies (CICs).
- Not-for-profit organisations.
- Organisations delivering services or events that benefit Bishop Auckland residents.

7. Principles

- All awards must demonstrate public benefit.
- Decisions will comply with the Council's Financial Regulations and statutory powers.

- The Council will not fund:
 - Political or religious activities.
 - Activities outside the parish unless clear benefit to Bishop Auckland residents is demonstrated.

8. Application Process

- **Grants:** Continue under the existing Community Grants Policy.
- **Donations:**
 - Requests may be initiated by the organisation or proposed by a Councillor or Town Council Staff Member.
 - A written application must include:
 - Purpose of the donation.
 - Expected community benefit.
 - Amount requested.
 - Evidence of need and other funding sources.
 - Applications will be considered by Full Council or an appropriate committee.
 - Application template is available in appendix 1

9. Assessment Criteria

- Alignment with Council priorities.
- Level of community benefit.
- Financial sustainability and need.
- Previous support provided by the Council.

10. Limits and Budget

- An annual budget for community grants and donations will be set during financial planning.

11. Monitoring and Reporting

- Organisations receiving donations must acknowledge the Council's support in publicity materials.
- The Council reserves the right to request a short impact report.

12. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Bishop Auckland Town Council

Donation Application Form

Organisation Name:	
Address:	
Telephone	
Email	
Type of Organisation: (Charity / CIC / Community Group / Other)	
Purpose of Donation:	
Amount Requested:	
How will this benefit Bishop Auckland residents?	
Do they have other funding sources:	