Local Community Support Grants Guidance 2027-2029

Please follow this guidance in the preparation and submission of your grant application.

The Council reserves the right to reject a grant application that does not fully comply with this guidance.

The Council makes grant awards at its discretion and will not be responsible for any costs incurred by organisations in any application.

1. Criteria	
1.1	Funding through these grants is to support local community activities for: • older people • people with a learning disability and/or who are neurodivergent • communities of interest **Communities of Interest are groups of individuals who share common characteristics, experiences, needs, interests, or circumstances that influence their wellbeing and support requirements. Examples include unpaid carers, people with mental health needs, people with physical or sensory impairments, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, LGBTQ+ people, people experiencing homelessness, and people affected by domestic abuse.*
1.2	The programme aims to support local organisations in delivering activities and opportunities that help people remain independent, connected, active, and engaged within their communities. Outcomes are based around The Five Ways to Wellbeing, which are evidence-based actions that improve wellbeing through social connection, physical activity, awareness, learning and feeling valued/giving.
1.3	Organisations can apply for up to two projects each at an award of up to £12,300 per project per year.
1.4	An applicant organisation's annual turnover must be below £500,000, with the Council reserving the right to prioritise organisations with an annual turnover below £300,000. Accounts will be requested to demonstrate this.
1.5	Where organisations are applying to facilitate the development of groups which will become user-led, a turnover of up to £1.5m will be allowed.
1.6	The proposed projects should: • Support people to help themselves and each other to enhance or maintain their independence, including encouraging physical activity where appropriate • Provide activities that are fun, varied and stimulating • Enable people to explore new interests or reconnect with previous hobbies and activities.

	• Bring people together from different backgrounds and help reduce social isolation • Promote inclusion by adopting flexible approaches that support people with more significant care and support needs to participate
1.7	Funding should support core running costs and should not ordinarily be used for food or transport, unless this is the main activity of the group (e.g. afternoon tea).
1.8	Organisations are expected to generate additional income where possible, for example through fundraising or charging.
1.9	The funding will be for one year (2027-2028) in the first instance, subject to review of each project in order to receive funding for the second year (2028-2029).

2. Timeline		
The Council reserves the right to amend this timetable, and the dates are provided for indicative purposes only. Any requests for clarification following 28th October will not be answered.		
2.1	Grant Process Starts:	*5 October 2026*
2.2	Deadline for Clarifications:	*28 October 2026*
2.3	Deadline for Applications:	*20 November 2026*
2.4	Evaluation of Applications:	*30 November 2026 - 11 December 2026*
2.5	Grants Awarded:	*8 January 2027*
2.6	Grants Start Date:	*1 April 2027*

3. Instructions	
3.1	Applicants may seek clarification or ask questions about the grant process or about the contents of these guidance notes by submitting a request via email to: ASCGrantsInbox@bradford.gov.uk
3.2	Applicants should not approach Council staff directly to answer clarification questions.
3.3	Unless a question is marked 'in confidence', the Council will share questions and answers with all potential applicants through Connect to Support.
3.4	Applications must be completed by the constituted organisation and fund holding body. A copy of the applicant organisation's constitution, policies and insurance will be requested upon award.
3.5	Applications for more than one project should be completed on separate application forms.
3.6	The application should be written in English and be returned by submitting the form https://online1.snapsurveys.com/LCSGform

3.7	If you have any issues with accessing, completing or submitting the form please contact us by email: ASCGrantsInbox@bradford.gov.uk
3.8	The form cannot be saved during completion, paper form is available on Connect to Support.
3.9	Only text within the application form will be considered and those words within the stipulated word count. Please do not include links to external pages.

4. Evaluation	
4.1	**Stage 1:** Complete applications received by the deadline of 5.00 pm on Friday 20 November 2026 will be collated for assessment by the grants panel.
4.2	**Stage 2:** Grant panel meets to assess the applications. Considerations will include: • Proposed delivery against priorities and outcomes. • Available funds by location/project type. • Council's Commissioning, Contracts and Quality intelligence.
4.3	**Stage 3:** All applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their grant application. Please note that all decisions made by the grants panel are final and there is no appeal process.
4. 4	**Stage 4:** Successful applicants provide requested documentation relating to their organisation as detailed in the Application Form.

5. Monitoring & Review	
5.1	Monitoring will be collected on a six-month basis, in the months of October, and April to ascertain delivery and outcomes. A visit to your group will also be arranged by your allocated Contract Officer. There is also a request for annual collection of Equalities data for participants. You will also be required to promote your group on Connect to Support and ensure these details stay up to date.
5.2	All projects will be subject to a review of the first year to ensure that intended outcomes are being met. This review will determine whether the project receives funding for 2028-2029.