



Policy 47 – Community Grants

CM9 Ref: **DOC/21/12143**

Adopted: **18 August 2014**
Minute 124/14

Version: **2**

Reviewed Date: **20 September 2021**

Council Minute No: **157/21**

OBJECTIVE

To provide a framework for Council to allocate approved funds to community groups in an effective and equitable manner.

POLICY

Council values and recognises the role of community groups within the municipal area and acknowledges that the provision of grants is a way Council can directly support the local community.

The Community Grants program is developed with a philosophy of partnership; whereby Council recognises the vital role that community groups and organisations play in contributing to the creation of a vibrant and sustainable municipality. Council provides a range of grants to encourage and support groups in the community to engage in activities that enhance the quality of life in Dorset.

Council's Community Grants Program

Council provides the following grants streams to the community:

- Dorset Small Grants
- Dorset Community Matching Fund Grants
- Dorset Councillors Discretionary Grants

Full program details including eligibility requirements, assessment criteria, critical dates and funding conditions are provided in the funding guidelines, accessible from the Dorset Council website.

Funding Allocations

In preparing its annual budget, Council will determine the budget allocations for Council's Community Grants Program.

Assessment of Grant Applications

Grants are assessed by the Dorset Council Community Grants Selection Panel, comprised of three Councillors and up to two Council Officers. The Selection Panel will assess applications in accordance with the applicable Assessment Criteria for each grant stream, as provided under the funding guidelines, and make recommendations for the awarding of funds. Recommendations for awarding of funds will then be considered at a Council Meeting, with final decision to be made by a resolution of Council.

Where funds from a grant stream or multiple streams remain(s) unallocated following a grant round, a supplementary round may be conducted – at the discretion of the Dorset Council Community Grants Selection Panel – until such time as all grant stream funds (within the annual budget allocation) have been awarded.

Successful Applications

For applications that are successfully awarded grant funding, applicants must supply an invoice to Dorset Council for the allocated grant amount and agree to abide by the following conditions:

- Any variations to the grant must be agreed to in writing by Dorset Council;
- Projects must be completed within the same financial year funds are received;
- Appropriate acknowledgement must be given to the support provided by Dorset Council;
- Council is not responsible for any shortfall should the project run over budget;
- Evaluation report and financial acquittal must be provided to Council within 2 months of funds being spent. The information required includes: a financial report, a brief assessment of the event/project and details of your organisations acknowledgement of Dorset Council's support, including documentation. Organisations that do not satisfactorily acquit their grant may not be eligible for funding the following year; and
- Unexpended funds must be returned to Dorset Council within 2 months of project finalisation.