

GRANTS AND DONATIONS

AGENDA ITEM No. 9

MEETING: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: 15TH JULY 2026

REPORT BY: TOWN CLERK

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to highlight the current position on the Council's various Grants and Donations Budgets for the 2026/27 financial year and to set out for the consideration of Members any requests for grants and donations received since the previous meeting.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 The Council currently has the following grants and donations budgets in place for the 2026/27 financial year:-

Fund	Budget	Remaining Funds
Grants and Donations Budget	£12,180	£9,866
Community Benefit Fund	£9,758	£9,758
Community Events Grants Budget	£4,000	£4,000

- 2.2 A schedule showing the current position on the various grants and donations funds is attached at Appendix 1.
- 2.3 Please note the Community Benefit Fund relates to monies paid to the Council each year in relation to the solar panels site off School Aycliffe Lane and must be used for environment related initiatives.
- 2.4 In considering any grant and donation requests this year, Members will need to take into consideration the limited grants funds available and the need to ensure that the available funds stretch as widely as possible across the full financial year.

3.0 Grant and Donation Requests

- 3.1 Since the last meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee, five grant and donation requests have been received, as detailed below:-

a) Solan Cancer Trust (Team Solan)

Summary of the Grant Request

A grant application form has been received from the Solan Cancer Trust, requesting a grant of £5,000 from the Council towards the costs of supporting the 36 individuals or families affected by cancer (known as 'warriors') in the Great Aycliffe Parish.

The grant would contribute directly to the £14,400 annual cost of supporting our 36 local warriors, covering 35% of that total. Every pound stays within the community - spent on local people, by a local team, delivering local impact.

Examples of costs include food parcels, household essentials, counselling, specialist clothing or wigs, and welfare support.

The grant application form is attached at Appendix 2.

A copy of the Solan Cancer Trust's governing documents and accounts have been provided, and are attached with the application form.

Officer Comments

The application meets the criteria set out in the Council's Grants and Donations Policy as it is from a local charitable organisation providing services directly to the local community. There are currently 36 individuals or families affected by cancer in the Great Aycliffe Parish being supported by the Solan Cancer Trust.

However, Members will note that the amount requested amounts to half of the total remaining Grants and Donations Budget.

Members may therefore wish to consider offering a lower grant, rather than the full amount, and the applicant has confirmed that they would be happy with any level of grant.

Members may wish to take the above guidance into account when considering this grant request.

b) Lifeline Community Action

Summary of the Grant Request

A grant application form has been received from Lifeline Community Action seeking funding towards the cost of a sponsored superhero walk.

This project is being undertaken in conjunction with Little Sendsations and is an all-inclusive walk, which encourages children to walk the 2 miles between Newton Aycliffe Train Station, and The Locomotion, Shildon, dressed as their superheroes. There will also be a Blue Light engagement event in the grounds of The Locomotion. This event promotes health, wellbeing and inclusivity, and also raises vital funds for the two charities to continue in providing support for SEND kids, parents and carers, and also emergency aid across County Durham and Darlington.

The grant application form is attached at Appendix 3.

A grant of £1,300 has been requested, which would effectively cover the costs of running the event, including St John's Ambulance, shuttle bus, sponsorship packs and medals and certificates.

A copy of Lifeline Community Action's constitution, accounts, insurance policy, safeguarding policy and public liability insurance certificate have been provided, and are attached with the application form.

Officer Comments

The application meets the criteria set out in the Council's Grants and Donations Policy as it is from a local charitable community organisation providing services directly to the local community via the Community Hub.

Members may wish to take the above guidance into account when considering this grant request.

c) Great Aycliffe Garden Guild

Summary of the Grant Request

A grant application form has been received from local community interest company; Great Aycliffe Garden Guild seeking funding towards the cost of prizes for the Allotments Competition that the Garden Guild are undertaking in partnership with and in support of the Town Council, as well as a contribution towards the Garden Guild's running costs such as insurance, rent and storage.

A grant of £999 has been requested.

The grant application form is attached at Appendix 4.

A copy of the Great Aycliffe Garden Guild's constitution, audited accounts, safeguarding policy and public liability insurance certificate have been provided, and are attached with the application form.

Officer Comments

The application meets the criteria set out in the Council's Grants and Donations Policy as it is from a local community organisation providing services directly to the local community.

Great Aycliffe Garden Guild are based at the Town Council's Clarence Chare Allotments site.

Members may wish to take the above guidance into account when considering this grant request.

d) Phoebe Morris

Summary of the Donation Request

A donation request has been received from local student Phoebe Morris requesting a donation towards her fundraising efforts towards an educational school trip to Sri Lanka for which students must fundraise the full cost.

The donation request is attached at Appendix 5.

Please note a grant application form has also been completed by her parents, and whilst this provides further useful information, please note that individuals cannot apply for grants under the requirements of the Grants and Donations Policy, only donations up to £1,000.

A grant of £1,000 has been requested, which is at the limit of the maximum threshold for a donation, and, if agreed, would effectively cover around 20% of the cost of the trip.

Officer Comments

The application meets the criteria set out in the Council's Grants and Donations Policy as it is from a local student, for educational purposes, and with the fundraising efforts likely to encourage inspiration and motivation within the applicant's peer group.

However, Members will note that there are a total of 20 students attending the Sri Lanka trip this year, and there is a strong possibility that if this donation request is agreed, that other students will come forward with similar requests.

Members may therefore wish to consider offering a smaller donation, rather than the full amount, and the applicant has confirmed in her covering letter that they would be happy with any level of donation.

Members may wish to take the above guidance into account when considering this donation request.

e) Newton Aycliffe Pipe Band

Summary of the Donation Request

A letter has been received from the Newton Aycliffe Pipe Band requesting that the Town Council consider donating 30 ties with the Town Heraldic Shield (Armorial Bearings) on them for the pipe band to wear when performing and representing the town.

The donation request letter is attached at Appendix 6.

The constitution and latest treasurer's report of the pipe band have been provided and are also attached.

This donation is to supplement the generous donation of ties the Pipe Band received from the Council in April last year.

Officer Comments

The donation request meets the criteria set out in the Council's Grants and Donations Policy as it is from a constituted local community group, providing services directly to the local community.

The Council has previously made a similar donation to the Pipe Band in April last year. Permission was granted to the Pipe Band at this time to use the Council's Armorial Bearings / Crest.

The Council currently has 30 Council ties left in its stocks following the issue of ties to councillors following recent elections, by-elections and co-options.

If the Council was to purchase 30 additional ties, the cost of 30 ties would be in the region of £500.

Members may wish to take the above guidance into account when considering this donation request.

4.0 Letters of Thanks / Post Grant Questionnaires

4.1 No letters of thanks or post grant questionnaires have been received since the last meeting.

4.2 However, Welcome Café has submitted their invoice for the purchase of an industrial dishwasher which will be fitted when the hall is repaired.

5.0 Policy Implications

5.1 The operation of the grants and donations fund helps the Council conform to the following Strategic Aims:-

Aim 1 "To provide good quality governance and management of the Council"

Aim 2 "To manage the Council's finances and assets in a responsible manner".

6.0 Staffing Implications

6.1 None.

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 As highlighted earlier, the following balances are available in the Council's various grants and donations funds:-

Fund	Available Funds
Small Grants and Donations Budget	£9,866
Community Benefit Fund	£9,758
Community Events Grants Budget	£4,000

8.0 Crime and Disorder Implications

8.1 None.

9.0 Equal Opportunities Implications

9.1 Applications for grants and donations will be considered on an equal and consistent basis in line with the requirements of the Council's Grants and Donations Policy.

10.0 Environment, Biodiversity and Climate Change Implications

10.1 The Community Benefit Fund is available to fund to environmental projects and grant and donation requests.

11.0 Risk Assessment

11.1 It is not considered that the matters contained in this report pose a risk to health and safety of staff or to the financial or public standing of the Council to a degree that a risk assessment should be appended to this report.

12.0 General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

12.1 Is any personal or sensitive data required for this proposal which may have any implications for GDPR? **NO**

12.2 A privacy impact assessment has been appended to this report which has considered the relevant impact on privacy matters and how these will be dealt with.

12.3 The forms will be stored securely and shredded after 12 months.

13.0 Recommendations

13.1 It is recommended that Members:

- (i) Receive the report.
- (ii) Consider the grant request from Solan Cancer Trust
- (iii) Consider the grant request from Lifeline Community Action
- (iv) Consider the grant request from Great Aycliffe Garden Guild
- (v) Consider the donation request from Phoebe Morris
- (vi) Consider the donation request from Newton Aycliffe Pipe Band