

GRANTS AND DONATIONS

AGENDA ITEM No. 9

MEETING: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: 21st OCTOBER 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	£6,867
Community Benefit Fund	£9,758	£9,758
Community Events Grants Budget	£4,000	£3,000

- 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. The Community Grants Budget is a separate fund set aside specifically to support local organisations in running community events.
- 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, two grant and donation requests has been received, as detailed below: -

Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group

Summary of the Grant Request

A grant application form has been received from local charity; the Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group, requesting a grant of £897.50 from the Council towards the costs of strengthening the support they provide to cancer patients and their families within Great Aycliffe community.

The grant will fund the purchase of a printer and tablet computer to support their welfare work helping patients claim benefits, grants and other support and making their welfare support for accessible within the community as well as funding a thank you carvery for the 25 volunteers who give their time freely to support cancer patients within Great Aycliffe to recognise their contribution to the charity.

The grant application provides further details in relation to the funding request and a breakdown of the costs.

The grant application form is attached at Appendix 2 along with a copy of the Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group's constitution and accounts.

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.

Please note that a previous grant request from Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group in April 2024 was refused due to the unavailability of audited accounts and the late submission of the accounts to the Charity Commission.

A check has been undertaken on the Charity Commission website regarding the current position in relation to the charity's accounts.

The accounts for the last two years have both been filed on time with the current year's accounts due to be filed by 31st October.

A copy of the unaudited accounts has been provided with the application form and show the charity currently holds unrestricted balances of £81,731.

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

b) Rotary Club of Great Aycliffe

Summary of the Donation Request

A letter has been received from Rotary Club of Great Aycliffe requesting a donation of £500 to support the cost of their annual Model Railway Exhibition in March 2026.

The donation request is to assist with the costs of room hire and accommodation for some of the exhibitors.

The total cost of the room hire and accommodation is £1,000 and a donation of £500 has been requested.

Full details of the donation request are included in the letter attached at Appendix 3, along with the constitution and accounts of the Rotary Club of Great Aycliffe.

Officer Comments

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

A grant application form has not been completed as the request is for an amount of less than £1,000.

The attached letter includes full details of the donation request and the need for the grant. The constitution and accounts of the Rotary Club have been provided.

The Council has previously provided financial support towards the costs of this popular community event.

It is suggested that if agreed, the donation be met from the Community Events Grants Budget.

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 A post grant questionnaire has been received from Lifeline Community Action relating to the £2,500 grant awarded in April 2025, to fund the purchase of fridges and freezers for their Community Pantry initiative.
- 4.2 The receipt of this information was delayed due a delay in the delivery of this initiative and in the pantry opening to the public.
- 4.3 However, the pantry opened in September 2026 is fully operational and estimated to support 1,800 local people per year.

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	£6,867
Community Benefit Fund	£9,758
Community Events Grants Budget	£3,000

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 the Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group.
 - (iii) Consider the donation request from the Rotary Club of Great Aycliffe.
 - (iv) Receive the post grant questionnaire from Lifeline Community Action relating to the grant awarded for the Community Pantry project.