GRANTS AND DONATIONS

AGENDA ITEM No. 9

MEETING: **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

DATE: **2ND DECEMBER 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	£5,807
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.

2.4 The Community Grants Budget is a separate fund set aside specifically to support local organisations in running community events.

2.5 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 remainder of the financial year.

3.0 Grant and Donation Requests

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

a) Aycliffe and Brancepeth Band

Summary of the Donation Request

A donation request has been received from local community interest company; Aycliffe and Brancepeth Band, requesting a donation of up to £1,000 from the Council towards the costs of instruments, repairs and uniforms and their plans to engage more with local schools and encourage new players.

The donation letter provides further details in relation to the funding request and is attached at Appendix 2 along with a copy of the Aycliffe and Brancepeth Band'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 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.

Aycliffe and Brancepeth Band are the 'town's own brass band' and perform at many concerts and events in the local area, including in the Remembrance Sunday parade every year. The band have also regularly supported Town Council events over the years.

A check has been undertaken on the Charity Commission website regarding the current position in relation to the community interest company's registration and accounts.

The annual return and accounts have both been filed on time.

Whilst the band hold balances of £25,000, it has been advised that these are earmarked on the long term towards the costs of securing a permanent base for their operations as well as the significant costs of replacing equipment.

It is suggested that this donation request, if agreed, is funded from the main Grants and Donations Budget.

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

b) Great Aycliffe Indoor Bowls Club

Summary of the Grant Application

A grant application form has been received from Great Aycliffe Indoor Bowls Club requesting a grant of between £1,000 and £5,000 towards the cost of replacing the aged wooden score board with a modern electronic score board.

This would provide the club with a modern, professional and more practical solution, would be easier to operate and update and provide a more streamlined way of running matches, improve the appearance of the bowls hall, and would be much clearer more players and spectators to see.

This in turn would help the club to attract more members, host more events and competitions and bring more players into the Oak Leaf Sports Complex, bringing the benefit to the Council of increased income.

The total cost of the proposed investment in an electronic scoreboard is £10,544 with a net cost to be funded of £8,340. The balance after any grant from the Town Council would be funded from the club's own reserves, as well as via various fundraising events.

The bowls club have also advised that the scoreboard would transfer into the ownership of the Council if the bowls club was to cease to exist.

The grant application form is attached at Appendix 3, along with the constitution and accounts of the Great Aycliffe Bowls Club.

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.

The attached grant application form includes full details of the request and the need for the grant and the constitution and accounts of Great Aycliffe Bowls Club have been provided.

The Great Aycliffe Bowls Club have operated out of the Oak Leaf Sports Complex for nearly 50 years, bringing significant numbers of bowlers and their families into the facility and developing a close working relationship.

It is suggested that this donation request, if agreed, is funded from the main Grants and Donations Budget.

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

c) ADHD Ladies Newton Aycliffe

Summary of the Donation Request

A grant application form has been received from a newly established 'not for profit' community organisation; ADHD Ladies Newton Aycliffe, requesting a grant of £600 towards the set-up costs of the organisation.

Please note that a grant application form did not need to be completed as the request is for a donation of less than £1,000.

Initially the donation would be used to build resources for the organisation, such as crafting materials, fidget toys etc to facilitate their group meetings as well as for room hire fees and refreshments. This would allow the group to be accessible to ladies from across the town, without cost to themselves

The grant application form is attached at Appendix 4.

Please note, as a newly established organisation, ADHD Ladies are not yet registered with the Chairty Commission and copies of their accounts, constitution, safeguarding policy and insurance are not yet available.

Officer Comments

The attached grant application form includes full details of the request.

The grant application partly meets the criteria set out in the Council's Grants and Donations Policy as it is from a local not for profit organisation providing services directly to the local community.

However, as a newly established organisation, ADHD Ladies Newton Aycliffe are not yet constituted or registered as a charity or community organisation and do not have safeguarding policies or insurance in place.

If the Council was to provide financial support this may need to come with conditions attached in relation to providing copies of the above documents once the organisation is fully established.

It is suggested that this donation request, if agreed, is funded from the main Grants and Donations Budget.

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

d) All Disabilities Matter

Summary of the Grant Request

A grant application form has been received from local charity; All Disabilities Matter, requesting a grant of £999 towards the costs of two complementary initiatives that address disability inclusion, accessibility, social isolation, community participation and equality of opportunity within Newton Aycliffe; an Inclusive Christmas Grotto Experience and a Community Connections Hub.

The grant would be specifically used to fund the cost of materials, consumables and contract labour relating to these two initiatives.

The grant application form is attached at Appendix 5, along with the constitution and accounts of All Disabilities Matter.

The grant application form includes detailed information in support of the two initiatives and the request for a grant.

A safeguarding policy and insurance certificate have also been provided and checked by officers.

Officer Comments

The attached grant application form includes full details of the request.

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

The attached grant application form includes full details of the request and the need for the grant and the constitution, accounts, safeguarding policy and insurance certificate of All Disabilities Matter have all been provided.

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

The annual return and accounts have both been filed on time.

It should be noted that the All Disabilities Matter accessible Santa's Grotto is also an established part of the Council's Santa Tours event on Christmas Eve and members may wish to take this into consideration.

It should also be noted that a number of councillors are members or volunteers with the charity and so several councillors may need to declare an interest in the consideration of this grant request and refrain from taking part in the debate / and / or leave the room.

It is suggested that this grant application, if agreed, is funded from the main Grants and Donations Budget.

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

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.

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	£5,807
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 donation request from Aycliffe and Brancepeth Brass Band.
(iii) Consider the grant application from Great Aycliffe Bowls Club.
(iv) Consider the donation request from ADHD Ladies Newton Aycliffe.
(v) Consider the grant application from All Disabilities Matter