

# GRANTS AND DONATIONS

## AGENDA ITEM No. 9

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**MEETING:** POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
**DATE:** 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2026  
**REPORT BY:** TOWN CLERK

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### 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 new 2026/27 financial year:-

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Remaining Funds</b>
Grants and Donations Budget	£5,000	£5,000
Community Benefit Fund	£9,758	£9,758
Community Events Grants Budget	£4,000	£4,000

- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 Please note that the 2025/26 Revenue and Capital Budget Year-End Outturn Report which is also on the agenda for this meeting, highlights that there is a remaining balance of £7,180 on the Community Support Fund.
- 2.5 This report has recommended that this unspent balance is carried forward to 2026/27 to support the Grants and Donations Budget. If approved, this would increase the 2026/27 Grants and Donations Budget from £5,000 to £12,180.

### **3.0 Grant and Donation Requests**

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

#### **a) Little Tykes Playgroup**

##### **Summary of the Grant Request**

A grant application form has been received from a newly established local playgroup, Little Tykes, requesting a grant from the Council towards the costs of running the playgroup, with a view to providing the sessions free of charge to allow access to those on low incomes.

A grant application form is attached at Appendix 1.

A grant of £400 has been requested, which would effectively cover the costs of four months of playgroup sessions.

Please note as Little Tykes is a very newly established group, they have not yet formally set themselves up as a community group and do not therefore have a constitution or accounts.

Copies of their public liability insurance and safeguarding policy have been requested but are in the process of being sought and had not been received at the time of writing the report.

##### **Officer Comments**

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

However, please note that the Council's Grants and Donations Policy stipulate that preference will be given to those organisations that have an approved constitution, audited accounts and a dedicated bank account in place, which is not the case with this newly established organisation.

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

#### **b) 1407 (Newton Aycliffe) Squadron Royal Air Force Air Cadets (RAFAC)**

##### **Summary of the Grant Request**

A grant application form has been received from 1407 (Newton Aycliffe) Squadron Royal Air Force Air Cadets.

A grant application form is attached at Appendix 2.

A grant of £3,822.61 has been requested, which would effectively cover the costs of providing enhanced opportunities to deliver an improved sports offer and develop the climbing capacity within the squadron.

Specifically, the grant would fund climbing equipment, sports equipment and storage.

A copy of the 1407 (Newton Aycliffe) Squadron Royal Air Force Air Corps constitution, 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 charitable community organisation (excepted charity status) providing services directly to the local community (there are 35 young people from Great Aycliffe currently members of the Air Cadets).

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

Even if it is agreed as part of the 2025/26 year-end outturn report, to carry forward and add a further £7,180 to the Grants and Donations Budget, this would still represent a third of the budget.

Members may therefore wish to consider offering a lower grant, for example for one element of the request, 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 donation request.

### **4.0 Letters of Thanks / Post Grant Questionnaires**

- 4.1 A letter of thanks has been received from the Captain of Oak Leaf Golf Club for the donation of a 4-ball voucher, driving range loyalty card and club shop voucher towards his fundraising for his chosen charity; Marie Curie. This is attached at Appendix 3.
- 4.2 An email of thanks, along with copies of invoices supporting the use of the donation, has been received from the Rotary Club of Great Aycliffe in relation to the Council's donation towards the costs of running the Model Railway Exhibition. This is attached at Appendix 4.

### **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:-

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Available Funds</b>
Small Grants and Donations Budget	£5,000
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 Little Tykes Playgroup.
- (iii) Consider the grant request from 1407 (Newton Aycliffe) Squadron Royal Air Force Air Cadets.
- (iv) Receive the letters of thanks from the Captain of Oak Leaf Golf Club and Rotary Club of Great Aycliffe.