

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

Grants Criteria: General and Festival Grants

Guidance for Organisations applying for Grant Funding Financial Year 2018/19

1. Introduction

Every year, Kendal Town Council aims to make funding available to organisations which support its work for the benefit of the residents of Kendal. General grants are administered through the Audit, Grants & Charities Committee and festival grants through the Christmas Lights & Festivals Committee.

2. Statutory Framework

Although Town Councils have a wide range of powers and duties, they are only able to make grants within these statutory restrictions. The Cumbria Association of Local Councils maintains a useful summary of these limits - see the document "Powers and Duties of Local Councils" on its website.

3. Funding priorities

Within this Framework, the Council makes grants available for both *core funding* and for *project work* (see 5. *Funding Provision* for how the Council defines these terms).

Grants are awarded within two priority areas:

3.1 Festivals - The Council believes that festivals - particularly those recurring annually - play an important part in the social life of the Town, help create a positive image of the Town, and attract tourism income for local businesses and the economic benefit that naturally follows.

Within this category, priority will be given to festivals which involve significant numbers of local residents, particularly young people, in their preparation and delivery, and which attract large numbers of local residents to their events.

Requests under this category may be either for core funding or for project work, and will be considered by the Council's Christmas Lights & Festivals Committee.

3.2 Community Development - The Council wishes to encourage community activities in the town, and recognises the role that arts, cultural, sports, and voluntary charitable activities play in developing community spirit and a sense of place.

Priority will be given to locally based organisations which serve marginalised, disadvantaged or isolated people in Kendal, and which demonstrate an effective use of local volunteers, especially young people.

Requests under this heading will normally be for project work.

In all cases, *organisations must be able to prove that the primary beneficiaries of the funding will be the residents of Kendal.*

Additionally, the Town Council is the sole trustee of the Schools of Science & Art Charity, which awards grants for the promotion of education in Kendal – further details are on the Town Council's web-site.

4. Types of organisations

The Council is especially interested in helping smaller organisations based in Kendal that offer direct services to Kendal residents.

4.1 Structure - Organisations should have, or should be in the process of acquiring, registered charity or similar not-for-profit status (small bona-fide community groups are exempt from this requirement). Organisations must work directly with beneficiaries (i.e. excluding grant-giving charities, endowment funds, etc).

The Council will not fund commercial organisations, such as registered companies, partnerships, or sole traders. Not-for-profit limited by guarantee and community interest companies are eligible to apply.

4.2 Size of organisation - Grants are relatively modest; to make sure grants of this size have an impact, the Council will prioritise the funding of smaller organisations. For organisations based exclusively in Kendal, this means having an income of less than about £100,000, or those working across the UK, an income of not more than about £250,000.

4.3 Capability - Applicants must demonstrate they are able to deliver the activities supported by funding.

4.4 Sustainability - Applicants must show that they have investigated other sources of funding and made plans for the future, which should include replacement funding if appropriate.

5. Funding Provision

5.1 Funding Limit - Grants are usually up to £5,000. Organisations are expected to raise a significant proportion of funding from their own activities.

5.2 Duration of funding - Grants are awarded on an annual basis. *Organisations receiving a grant will not normally be eligible for a further grant in the same financial year.*

5.3 Core funding - The majority of the grants awarded by the Council relate to core funding, to cover running costs such as general administration, premises costs and services. Usually the Council will have an ongoing

partnership with the requesting organisation, whose success is judged to be essential to the life and reputation of the town. Organisations should not anticipate or rely on ongoing support from the Council and are expected to raise an increasing proportion of its income; the Council will monitor this as appropriate.

5.4 Project funding - The Council welcomes applications for projects where the grant will be used for an identified purpose. Applications for project funding should make sure they can fund the cost of any overheads associated with the work, such as office/secretarial support, so that the project is not under-funded. It is in the organisation's best interest to ensure that they have realistically assessed the total cost of the project.

- a) **Innovative or pioneering work.** The Council likes to encourage new ideas and to fund projects that could inspire similar work in other areas, and so enhance the reputation of the town.
- b) **Pump-priming.** The Council particularly welcome applications for pump-priming grants from small community-based organisations.
- c) **Continuation funding.** The Council does appreciate the importance of providing ongoing funding for successful projects which have proved their worth; however, the Council will look for evidence that the organisation is generating an increasing proportion of its income from its own fundraising activities.

5.5 Emergency or deficit funding - *in exceptional circumstances*, the Council may provide emergency or deficit funding for an established organisation. Applicants most likely to be granted emergency funding are organisations which the Council knows or has previously supported.

6. What will the Committee not recommend?

6.1 General appeals - sponsorship, marketing or other fundraising activities.

6.2 Retrospective funding - grants for work that has been completed, or will be completed while the application is being considered.

6.3 Personal appeals - grants or sponsorship etc. to individuals either directly or indirectly.

6.4 Organisations

- with available surplus reserves well above the cost of the project or funding requested.
- whose membership is closed and not open to residents as a whole
- with sectarian, political, or purely lobbying objectives.

7. Applying for Funding

7.1 The Council receives many appeals each year, and the most common reasons for it not being able to make a grant are:

- applications not falling within the guidelines;
- organisations considered to have excessive financial reserves; or
- application forms not being filled in correctly and/or completely, or arriving after the deadline for submission.

Applications received usually exceed the funds available, so even if your application meets the Council's criteria, it may not be possible to award a grant in full, or at all.

7.2 Read these guidelines carefully and only apply if your work falls within the Council's priorities. You are recommended to seek the support of a Town Councillor (eg your Ward Member, or the Council's representative on your governing body, if you have one). Organisations seeking funding for festivals should discuss their requests with the Council's Christmas Lights & Festivals Committee.

7.3 Download the application form from the Council's website. It is also available by post or on request at the Town Hall.

7.4 Other sources of funding may be available through the Dowker Bindloss Charity via the Cumbria Community Foundation and the Cumbria County Council's Neighbourhood Forum.

7.5 Read these guidelines carefully before completing the form. It helps to have your application supported by one or more Councillors, who can answer questions about the application if the need arises. The Town Treasurer will be glad to answer specific questions on process, but *the Council cannot accept draft applications*.

7.6 Once the Council has received your application form the process is as follows:

- a) The Town Treasurer will acknowledge receipt of your application and will contact you to deal with any queries, if necessary. **Your application cannot go to the relevant Committee if there are any outstanding issues.**
- b) Town Council staff will contact you within two weeks of the final Council decision, to let you know the outcome of your application.
- c) If your application has been successful, the Town Treasurer will arrange payment via a bank transfer; annual grants are normally paid during July.
- d) Organisations receiving project funding must submit a project completion report for review by the Audit, Grants, & Charities or Christmas Lights and Festivals Committee.

7.7 When to Apply. The two Committees meet according to a published timetable (available on the Council's website). The Committees conduct their main review of funding applications at their October meetings. Your application is most likely to be successful if it is received in time for this meeting. **Applications can only go on the Committee agenda if they have been received - and have had any issues resolved - fourteen days before the Committee meeting.**

The Committee will do its best to process your application as quickly as possible. If the Committee needs further information about your application, it may have to postpone a decision until the next Committee meeting.

Any applications that arrive too late for consideration at one meeting are automatically carried forward to the next. Once the Committee has exhausted its annual budget, no further grants will be available until the next financial year.

The decisions of the Committee go forward as recommendations to the next full Council meeting for a final decision. The Council may accept or reject the Committee's recommendations, approve a different amount of funding, or refer an application back for further consideration by the Committee.

7.8 Emergency procedure. In exceptional circumstances, and only with the support of the Mayor, a funding request may be heard by full Council without going through the relevant Committee. The applicant must be able to show why this is a genuine emergency, with a significant impact on Kendal residents. The criteria in Sections 5 and 6 still apply and the organisation must complete the standard paperwork for audit purposes and meet the timetable for the Council Agenda.

8. Grant Conditions

8.1 The Council will apply certain conditions to the grants it awards:

- a)** The grant must be used for the purpose stated in the organisation's application; the Council reserves the right to require a refund of any grant which is not used appropriately.
- b)** Organisations must acknowledge the assistance granted by the Town Council, eg by displaying its crest in documentation, webpages or project signage.
- c)** The Council may require the organisation to achieve specified outcome or output measures connected with the grant funding.
- d)** For awards over £2,000, the Council requires the organisation to submit a brief report on the use of the grant and the organisation's activities. In the case of core funding, this will relate to a full financial year and, for regularly funded organisations, can accompany the following year's grant application. For project funding, the report is required on completion of the project.

9. Further advice and information

For further advice and information about the Council's Audit, Grants, & Charities or Christmas Lights and Festivals Committee, please contact any Town Councillor. The Town Treasurer at Kendal Town Council will be happy to answer any technical queries.

Contact details: Kendal Town Council, Town Hall, Kendal, LA9 4DL
<http://www.kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk>