

COUNCIL GRANTS PROGRAMMES FOR THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide Committee members with information about this council's grant programmes for voluntary and community sector organisations, including Service Level Agreements, New Homes Bonus and Community Chest.

2 Recommendations

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| 2.1 That Members of the Committee note the content of the report. |
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3 Background

- 3.1 The Council has always provided grant funding to voluntary organisations in the district. Grants have been available in various forms, for example project funding and/or support for the core costs of voluntary and community organisations delivering services in the district. The current grant programmes include the Service Level Agreements with voluntary organisations; the Community Chest (in partnership with the Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust); and the New Homes Bonus grant scheme for parish and town councils.

4 Service Level Agreements (SLAs)

- 4.1 This grants programme has evolved over time and has been subject to reviews in 2001 and 2008/9. The amount of money available for grant funding has reduced over time and the council currently allocates around £500,000 from its revenue budget, which provides funding for 18 voluntary and community sector organisations, as outlined at appendix 1. Each organisation has a service level agreement with the council which outlines the services being supported by the funding, and the levels of service expected. These are monitored on a six monthly basis.
- 4.2 The council's funding subsidises a wide range of services, and enables the recipients to attract additional funding for project work or service provision. One measure of the impact of the council's funding is known as the leverage ratio – i.e. the ratio of the amount of money attracted into the district to every pound 'invested' by the council. The leverage ratio for the council's SLA programme is currently 1:4.
- 4.3 Since 2004 the SLA grants have been awarded as three year funding agreements, to provide the recipients with some stability in funding and to be able to plan for the medium term. The only exceptions to this have been where there may have been concerns over performance or the future viability of a service.
- 4.4 From 2013, in light of reductions in the council's grants budget and in anticipation of substantial cuts to Government funding for the council in future, it was agreed to award two year agreements, with the option to extend for a third year, based on the budget available and satisfactory monitoring returns. Since then recipients have been provided with advice and information about how to reduce their reliance on AVDC funding. 2015/16 is the third year of the agreements and recipients will be asked to reapply this summer.
- 4.5 The application process requires each organisation to complete an application form and provide a range of supporting information including audited accounts, evidence of good governance, and monitoring information from previous years.

In addition applicants are required to show how they are working towards reducing their reliance on AVDC funding.

- 4.6 The AVDC Grants Officer reviews all the information, and provides a summary to an informal grants panel. A scoring system is used to provide an indicative score to enable some comparison to be made between applicants. The informal grants panel makes recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Communities, Leisure and Civic Amenities, who makes the final decision on the allocation of funding. Membership of the Panel reflects the political makeup of the council. The current membership is Councillors John Cartwright, Netta Glover, Tim Mills, Tom Hunter-Watts and Julie Ward.
- 4.7 Applicants are kept informed throughout the process and the final decision is communicated to the applicants by the end of December, in order to provide three months notice of funding for the next financial year.

5 Aylesbury Vale Community Chest

- 5.1 When the council transferred its housing stock to the Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust in 2006 a joint grants programme, known as the Community Chest was established. The council and the trust have agreed to set aside £500,000 each year, for ten years, made available from the VAT generated on the repairs and maintenance expenditure incurred by VAHT. The scheme will operate until March 2017. Between May 2007 and the end of March 2015, £3.61m had been awarded through 626 grants.
- 5.2 A grants officer is employed on a part time basis to administer the Community Chest and provide advice and support to applicants. The full costs of administering the scheme are paid for from the Community Chest fund, leaving a grants budget of £460,000pa
- 5.3 There are three grant streams. Each one requires the applicant to complete an application form:

5.3.1 Micro Grants

Grants of up to £1,000 are assessed and awarded on a monthly basis. Applications are assessed by the Grants Officer who makes recommendations to the Chief Executives of AVDC and VAHT who make the final decision.

A short monitoring form is sent with the funding documentation for return within six weeks of the grant being spent.

In 2014-15, 44 applications were submitted, of which 42 were successful, a success rate of 95%. The 42 micro grants awarded totalled £35,776. The leverage ratio for those grants was £5.75 for every £1 granted.

5.3.2 Project Grants

Grants of up to £25,000 are available three times a year. Applications are assessed by a grants panel, which consists of three AVDC Councillors and three officers from the Trust. From June 2015, panel members are Cllr Janet Blake, Cllr Paul Irwin and Cllr Gary Powell representing AVDC and the Head of Finance, Director of People and Performance, and Head of Community Services from VAHT.

A detailed monitoring form is sent out one year after the grant is awarded, unless the grants officer is notified that the project has a different timescale.

In 2014-15, 26 project applications were considered by the panel, of which 21 were successful, this is an 81% success rate. The 21 project grants totalled £267,100. The leverage ratio for those grants was £8.81 for every £1 granted.

5.3.3 Three Year Revenue Grants (3YR)

Grants of up to £20,000 per year, for three years, are assessed by the grants panel. The final round of 3 year revenue grants was awarded by the panel in 2013.

A mid-year monitoring visit is made by the grants officer, then a year-end monitoring return is submitted by each recipient, showing progress against targets set and including revised targets and budget for the following year. Satisfactory monitoring returns enable the panel to approve the next year's funding payment.

12 revenue grants were awarded for 2014-17, a total of £157,000. The leverage ratio for these grants is £9.02 for every £1 granted.

- 5.4 In total, £459,876 of Community Chest grants were awarded during the year, contributing to investment in local voluntary and community sector projects worth £3.97m, an average leverage ratio of £8.64:£1. A list of grants awarded in 2014/15 is attached as appendix 2 to this report.

The Grants Officer produces an annual report on the Community Chest, providing information about the grants awarded, which is available on the council's website at www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/communitychest. Full details about eligibility and criteria are also available using that link. The 2014/15 report will be available in August.

6 New Homes Bonus

- 6.1 The council receives an annual New Homes Bonus allocation from central Government based on the number of properties added to the council tax base in the previous year, including new builds and empty properties being brought back into use.
- 6.2 The council has set aside 20% of the allocation as an annual New Homes Bonus grant scheme to support parish and town councils, affected by housing growth, to deliver a projects that will make a positive difference to Aylesbury Vale residents. The scheme has been running since 2013.
- 6.3 The application process requires the submission of an expression of interest from the parish/town council, in order to prompt a conversation with the Grants Officer about the project, prior to a full application by the 30th September. An informal grants panel considers applications and makes recommendations to the Cabinet, which makes the final decision about funding. The grants panel includes three district councillors and two parish representatives nominated by the Aylesbury Vale Association of Local Councils. Membership of the panel for 2015 is Cllrs Peter Strachan, Derek Town and Steven Lambert and two AVALC parish representatives, John Gilbey and Nick Heirons.
- 6.4 The amount of funding available for the scheme in 2015/16 is £938,000 plus £192,404 unallocated in 2014/15. In the first year of the grant scheme the total amount available was £491,000, and in 2014/15, a budget of £784,487 was available. A list of grants awarded since 2013 is attached as appendix 3.
- 6.5 The NHB funding scheme is open to parish and town councils that can evidence that they have been affected by housing growth. Applications need not necessarily be from the area in which the growth has occurred, as it is recognised that those affected are not always within the area taking the growth. Turweston is a good example, where traffic from developments outside the village affected its residents.
- 6.6 To date no application has been refused, but some have been deferred pending further detail of the project.

7 Voluntary Sector Compact

- 7.1 This council has signed the Buckinghamshire Compact¹, an agreement between the statutory and voluntary sectors setting out a number of principles and good practice guidelines which both sectors have agreed to adopt, with particular commitments around funding and procurement, volunteering and consultation.
- 7.2 The council seeks to comply with the Compact, particularly in relation to funding by providing multi-year funding agreements, and by keeping grant recipients informed about all funding decisions. For example, the council always aims to provide three months notice of decisions in relation to Service Level Agreements. In return we require evidence of good governance and regular monitoring information and the delivery and outcomes of the services provided by grant recipients.

Contact Officer
Background Documents

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information from AVDC website about council grants

¹Visit [http://www.communityimpactbucks.org.uk/data/files/Compact - generic - signatories - Sept 2013.pdf](http://www.communityimpactbucks.org.uk/data/files/Compact_-_generic_-_signatories_-_Sept_2013.pdf) to view a copy of the Bucks Compact

**Aylesbury Vale District Council
Grants to Voluntary and Community Organisations
Service Level Agreements 2015/16**

Organisation	Services covered by SLA	Grant 2015/16
Buckingham & District Citizen's Advice Bureau	Access to free, impartial and confidential information and advice for people in greatest need, including debt, welfare benefits, housing, employment advice.	£77,371
Aylesbury & District Citizen's Advice Bureau		£93,000
Relate, Mid Thames and Bucks	Counselling services for couples, individuals and families dealing with relationship breakdown.	£13,926
Aylesbury Women's Aid	Funding supports Outreach Service to deliver support, information and advice, advocacy and a Freedom Programme for women living with domestic violence.	£29,130
Aylesbury Vale Rape Crisis	Information, advice and counselling services for victims of rape and sexual violence.	£8,927
Age UK Bucks	Information & Advice service, Welfare Benefits advice, telephone advocacy, befriending and rural day care services.	£15,744
Aylesbury Dial A Ride	A community transport service for those who find it difficult or are unable to access public transport.	£29,970
Lunch clubs - 4 clubs funded in 2015/16	The provision of hot, healthy meals in a social setting for older people in Aylesbury Vale. Over 9,000 meals served in 2013/14.	£4,000
Youth Concern	Core funding for a drop in centre/coffee bar where young people aged 13-25 can access free 1:1 counselling and information, advice and support on a range of issues including drugs and alcohol, poverty and homelessness, family breakdown, young parenthood, bereavement and domestic violence.	£16,480
Aylesbury Youth Action	Core funding to provide young people aged 14-25 with positive opportunities to participate in voluntary activities for the benefit of the local community, to develop skills to improve life choices.	£12,240
Bucks Play Association	Fully inclusive play opportunities for children aged 5-12 through holiday play schemes, with high ratio of 1:1 for SEN children. Also to support AVDC to deliver 'Play around the Parishes' and to support member organisations through advice and the hiring out of equipment and resources.	£35,000
Southcourt and Walton Court Community Project	Accessible and affordable play opportunities for children living in an area of high social and economic disadvantage. The grant supports the salary of the Play Work Manager.	£14,106
Queens Park Arts Centre	Core funding to support the day to day operation of the centre to facilitate affordable and accessible creative arts for the community, and theatre, music and dance performance opportunities.	£30,600

Organisation	Services covered by SLA	Grant 2015/16
Aylesbury Vale Arts Council	The Arts Council distributes funding to local arts, music & dance organisations and events in the district.	£15,000
Aylesbury Vale Sports Network	Small bursaries for talented athletes and sports coaches in Aylesbury Vale competing at a regional level or above.	£12,000
Quarrendon and Meadowcroft Community Centre	AVDC provides funding to support the salaries of the centre development workers/managers.	£20,298
Haydon Hill Association		£10,846
The Multicultural Community Centre		£10,000
Healthy Living Centre	Grant funding supports the delivery of community development activities to improve the health and wellbeing of people living in Southcourt & Walton Court.	£20,000
Community Impact Bucks	Contribution to countywide grant for voluntary sector infrastructure support	£22,200
	Total amount of funding	£490,838

**Aylesbury Vale Community Chest Grants
April 2014 - March 2015**

Name of Organisation	Purpose	Amount Granted £	Aylesbury Vale Ward Area
Artfully Reliable Theatre Society	Keyboard for rehearsals and performances	1,000	Aston Clinton
Aylesbury & District Table Tennis League	Wall coverings and additional tables	900	Quarrendon
Aylesbury Astronomical Society	new telescope mount to enable more community open events and astrophotography	900	Waddesdon
Aylesbury Youth Action	Vtrek - youth volunteering from Buckingham to Aylesbury, August 2014	900	Vale West Mandeville & Elm Farm
Bearbrook Running Club	Training and raceday equipment	900	Mandeville & Elm Farm
Bierton with Broughton Parish Council	New goalposts and goal mouth repairs	850	Bierton
Brill Memorial Hall	New internal and external doors to improve insulation, fire safety and security	1,000	Brill
Buckingham and District Mencap	Social evenings and trip to Buckingham Town Pantomime	900	Luffield Abbey
Buckingham Town Cricket Club	Cricket equipment for junior section	900	Buckingham South
Buckland and Aston Clinton Cricket Club	Replacement netting for existing practice net frames	700	Aston Clinton
Bucks Play Association	Under 5s area at Play in The Park event on National Play Day	955	Aylesbury Central
Cheddington Parish Council	Mobile football goalposts	360	Cheddington
Chiltern Community Opera	Pirates of Penzance - rehearsals leading to performance in July 2015	900	Quarrendon
Chiltern Music Therapy	Music Therapy Integration Group, for adults with learning difficulties	800	Aylesbury Central
Community Unity Projects	Subsidised outing to Wendover Woods for low income families	800	Quarrendon
Drayton Parslow Parish Council	Preparatory survey for improvement of the recreation field	440	Great Brickhill
Drayton Parslow Sports and Social Club	Access ramp and railings to main entrance	936	Great Brickhill
Dunton Village Hall	MUGA and Tennis Court resurfacing	1,000	Stewkley
Edgcott Parish Council	Internal and external improvements including electrical works and redecoration	1,000	Grendon Underwood
ENRYCH	Visit to the Village Picture House in Cuddington	415	Vale Wide
Great Horwood Parish Council	Youth Shelter	900	Great Horwood
Grendon Underwood Village Hall	Exterior repair and repainting of roof edging and gutters	1,000	Grendon Underwood
Haddenham Cricket Club	Double-bay outdoor practice nets self-build project	1,000	Haddenham
Haddenham Cycle Training CIC	Cycle maintenance and storage of loan bikes for course participants	1,000	Haddenham
Indian Cultural Society	Independence and Integration event	440	Mandeville & Elm Farm
Ivinghoe Old School Community Hub	Additional tables and chairs	1,000	Pitstone

Name of Organisation	Purpose	Amount Granted £	Aylesbury Vale Ward Area
Long Crendon Village Association	Feasibility study for redevelopment	1,000	Long Crendon
Monday Contact Club	Activities and entertainments programme for older people's day centre	900	Aylesbury Central
Oakley Social Centre (The Village Hall)	Replacement storage shed	1,000	Brill
Polish Saturday School	Classroom Hire	1,000	Bedgrove
Pollyanna Pre-School	Children's cloakroom and toilets at Stoke Mandeville Community Centre	1,000	Aston Clinton
Quarrendon Community Café	Running costs for three months drop-in support sessions	400	Quarrendon
Spirit Youth Group, Cheddington	Production of Bugsy Malone	1,000	Cheddington
Stewkley Recreation Association	Park bench refurbishment	600	Stewkley
The Aylesbury Society	Mural under the High Street Canal Bridge	1,000	Aylesbury Central
Tingewick Parish Council	Replacement safety surface for children's playground	900	Tingewick
Waddesdon Cricket Club	Cricket nets	1,000	Waddesdon
Wednesday Club, Waddesdon	Day Centre outing to a working farm in Aylesbury Vale, 22.4.15	840	Waddesdon
Weedon Old Schoolroom	Replacement oil tank	900	Weedon
Wendover Parish Council	Heritage fruit trees for a community orchard	1,000	Wendover
Whitchurch Parish Council	Village noticeboard	540	Weedon
Young Enterprise Bucks	'Our Community' and 'Our Business' primary programmes in Aylesbury Schools	800	Elmhurst & Watermead
Microgrants (one-off, up to £1,000)		£35,776	
Buckingham Canal Society	Support worker for volunteers	7,000	Buckingham North
Buckingham Old Gaol Museum	New lighting system	10,000	Buckingham North
Bucks Play Association	Boomerang Toy Library	16,000	Various
Canal and River Trust	Weston Turville Reservoir - circular walk	3,000	Aston Clinton
Dogs for the Disabled	School Dog - Pilot at Stocklake Park School	10,000	Oakfield
Great Brickhill Parish Hall	Car park levelling and resurfacing including disabled parking	20,000	Great Brickhill
Haddenham Cycle Training	Bikeability courses at Elmhurst and Thomas Hickman Schools	10,000	Quarrendon & Elmhurst
I Have a Voice Too	Aylesbury Murder Mystery - participatory theatre group	5,400	Vale Wide
Lindengate	horticultural training/therapy mental health project	15,000	Wendover
Little Horwood Recreation Ground	Replacement storage shed	10,000	Great Horwood
Mursley Village Hall	Refurbishment and modernisation	22,000	Newton Longville
Oakley Bowling Club	Outdoor Bowling Green for Oakley	20,000	Brill
Oasis Partnership	Art and craft therapy project	12,000	Aylesbury Central
PACE Centre	Sensory Occupational Therapy for children with cerebral palsy	5,000	Gatehouse
Puzzle Centre	Contribution towards salaries (Head of Centre)	15,000	Steeple Claydon

Name of Organisation	Purpose	Amount Granted £	Aylesbury Vale Ward Area
Stewkley Enterprise Agency	Expansion to Drayton Parslow, Mursley, Newton Longville, Stoke Hammond and Swanbourne	12,500	Stewkley, Newton Longville, Great Brickhill
Thomley Activity Centre	lifelong support to disabled children, teens, their families and carers	9,200	Long Crendon
Vale of Aylesbury Vineyard	The Storehouse Project	10,000	Gatehouse
Westbury Parish Council	Village Hall Rebuild	25,000	Tingewick
Winslow Scouts	Refurbishment of Scout HQ	15,000	Winslow
Youth Concern, Aylesbury	Lifeline services for disadvantaged young people	15,000	Aylesbury Central
Project Grants (one-off up to £25,000)		£267,100	
Aylesbury & District CAB	Combatting worklessness through volunteering - Work placements and training for NEETs	2,000	Aylesbury Central
Aylesbury Homeless Action Group	The Hub drop-in information, advice and support sessions for homeless adults	20,000	Aylesbury Central
Buckingham Youth Clubs Ltd	Core costs to run four evening youth clubs each week for 50 weeks per year	10,000	Buckingham South
Bucks Mind	Counselling service for adults with mental health needs in Aylesbury Vale	8,000	Vale Wide
Bucks Vision	Aylesbury Vale Vision Network Co-ordinator for blind and visually impaired people	10,000	Vale Wide
Calibre Audio Library	Supporting volunteers in changing times - Volunteer Co-ordinator	8,000	Aston Clinton
Chilterns MS Centre	Physiotherapy provision for people with MS	16,000	Wendover
ENRYCH	Volunteer support for adults with disabilities in leisure and learning activities	10,000	Vale Wide
Home-Start Aylesbury	Helping young families at difficult times through 1:1 support from trained volunteers	13,000	Aylesbury Central
Horses Helping People	Client sponsorship, volunteer training, winter running costs	20,000	Wingrave
Puzzle Centre	Core service - specialist pre-school for children with ASD	20,000	Steeple Claydon
Thomley Activity Centre	Core staff costs - activity centre for children and young people with physical and learning disabilities	20,000	Long Crendon
Three Year Revenue Grants (year 1 of 3)		£157,000	
Total Grants Awarded April '14 - March '15		£459,876	

**Aylesbury Vale District Council New Homes Bonus grants scheme
for parish and town councils**

Grants awarded since 2013

2013 – funding available £491,000

Buckingham Town Council multi use games area and trim trail	£38,513
Winslow Town Council purchase of land upon which to build a new community centre	£200,000
Waddesdon Parish Council pedestrian controlled crossing	£90,000
Aylesbury Town Council Paralympic Heritage flame festival (a decision of funding the 2016 Paralympic Flame Festival was deferred pending submission of a new application in 2015)	£50,000
Totals	£378,513
Unallocated	£112,487

2014 – funding available £784,487

Westbury Parish Council Rebuilding of village hall	£50,000
Calvert Green Parish Council Extension and refurbishment of community building	£200,000
Turweston Parish Council traffic calming measures	£60,000
Haddenham Parish Council Pedestrian crossing	£86,000
Buckland Parish Council Restoration of canal path	£12,895
Stoke Mandeville Speed limit reduction along Risborough and Lower Roads	£5,000
Stone, Bishopstone & Hartwell All weather car park surface on Memorial Ground	£14,880
Coldharbour Multi-Use-Games-Area (MUGA)	£31,145
Weston Turville Relocation of play area and extension to car park	£122,863
Aylesbury Town Council Refurbishment of Grade II Listed unused chapel in Aylesbury Town Cemetery	£9,300
Totals	£592,083
To be carried forward	£192,404