

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

GRANTS & FUNDING POLICY

1. An award of a grant must give direct benefit to all or some of the inhabitants of the Town, and the size of grant should be commensurate with the benefit delivered.
2. Grant forms will be scrutinized to ensure they meet the criteria set out in the Grants and Funding Policy, before being put forward for decision at the Finance and Policy Committee. Applications which do not meet the criteria will be rejected and returned.
3. The Town Council as a body does not affiliate to any political party and legally cannot provide grant or support to any party political activity.
4. The Town Council does not affiliate to any religious group; however applications will be considered where there is a clear community wide benefit.
5. Requests for grant aid or sponsorship of an event will only be considered from the following categories of applicant:
 - A Congleton Town – based charity
 - An organisation serving the needs of the citizens of Congleton
 - Citizens of Congleton requesting grant aid with a project/event, which will be for the benefit of a wider group in Congleton.
 - A Congleton based club/association/organisation serving a specific section of the community or the community as a whole.
6. Applications will only be considered when made on a formal application form with all relevant sections completed.
7. Applicants will need to demonstrate how their activities or the particular project for which financial support is being sought, will benefit the residents of Congleton Town.
8. The Council will give priority to the projects/organisations which progress one or more of its corporate objectives.
9. The Council will normally require details of the structure and funding of the organisation, and may request copies of budget/accounts and business plans for applications over £250.
10. The Council will require details of any project which is the subject of the application, including standards to be attained, costs, timescales and how the remainder of the funding will be provided.

11. The Council will normally only fund the up to a maximum of 50% of a project cost and priority will be given to requests for grants of £250 or less. Any request above £250 will require detailed justification for the project including matched funding as a prerequisite.
12. Sponsorships - When there is a request for sponsorship, it needs to be clearly demonstrated how the Town Councils' support will be recognised.
13. Grant requests for tangible products or services.
Quotes are required for grant applications as follows:
 - Under £250 No quotes
 - £251 - £500 One quote
 - £501 - £1,000 Two quotes
 - £1001 or above Three quotes
14. Applicants will be required to state the amount of grant sought from the Council and provide details of other grants or awards applied for or gained, which must be disclosed in full.
15. Where projects cross financials years, the Council may "ring fence" an approved amount of grant. It will reserve the right to withdraw approval where a project does not look likely to go ahead within a 12 month period from the grant approval date.
16. Payment will not normally be made until a project has been completed. Payments will then only normally be made against a formal receipt or invoice. Stage payments may be approved for larger projects.
17. The Council will usually only consider requests for specific projects, not on-going or core costs. The exceptions to this will be "pump-priming" to help organisations get established or organisations which deliver a substantial part of the Council's priorities.
18. The Council may, where it appears to be a more cost effective or efficient use of resources, prefer to act in partnership with another organisation, or provide support "in kind", rather than provide grant assistance.
19. An evaluation of the project must be provided once the project is complete to provide evidence that the benefits and outputs have been achieved. The evaluation form must be returned to the Council within 4 weeks of completion of the project. Future requests for grants will be jeopardised if this is not completed.

20. The Council will advertise its Grant and Financial Assistance Scheme widely to ensure an equitable distribution of resources.
21. For grants and sponsorship, the applicant will acknowledge the contribution made by the Council when arranging promotional activity or literature, including press releases relating to the application.
22. The applicant acknowledges and agrees that all decisions made by the Council for such a grant request are solely a matter for and at the discretion of the Council. The applicant will provide to the Council all such assistance as is reasonably necessary to enable the Council to comply with its requirements under the Freedom of Information Act.