



Fundraising and Sponsorship Strategy and Procedure

Adopted 10 August 2023 – Full Council – Minute 1984

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Town Council has successfully applied for grants and sponsorship for a number of projects in previous years to great effect both to the Council itself and in supporting local Community Groups and Organisations. There is still much to be done in coordinating the efforts of the Town Council as a whole.
- 1.2 There exists expertise within the Council staff and amongst Councillors in the identification and application for sponsorship and grants outside the Town Council from external bodies such as the National Lottery, Heritage Lottery, Sport England, Community Foundation, Borough Council, Landfill Tax credit scheme and others for use by the Town Council or community groups. To be effective the council needs to think more strategically about the applications it makes and who has responsibility for any application.
- 1.3 Set out below are a number of ways to bring the process together and for improving the Town Council's ability to obtain grants and sponsorship, make applications and to use officer time more effectively to achieve the best results.

2. Decision Making

- 2.1 With any local authority there will always be a balance between what is achievable and what should or should not be the focus of attention in terms of the activities we provide, supported by officers and staff. With new projects there may also be wider issues for which Councillors may need to be consulted as to the appropriateness of new projects and if the Town Council should support such projects.
 - 2.2 As many forms of grant funding come with very short response times or windows of opportunity for applications to be made, it may not be possible to consult Councillors adequately to make a more informed decision about involvement. However, such opportunities should not be lost as they rarely come again and may in fact be well received by council members.
- 1.3 To overcome any possible repercussions and to allay any fears that Members may have with regard to new grant applications, it is a simple process to return funding if successful or to refuse it. So an application might be made by an officer at short notice and prove successful but does not commit the Town

Council to actually spending the funding if it later transpires that members do not support such applications.

It is important to remember also that although an application is made, the reply time for any confirmation or indication of success may be several weeks or months, which then allows time for more detailed consultation with members.

- 2.4 If during the consultation period and the application evaluation process Members decide not to proceed, then that is facilitated very easily by a phone call and letter to the decision making body.
- 2.5 In relation to Sponsorship a more detailed approach will be needed and to consider the type and suitability of the sponsor and the way in which they wish their brand or business to be promoted. It will be possible to identify sponsorship packages and opportunities for events e.g. Town Carnival, Fireworks.
- 2.6 Councillors will be emailed by the Town Clerk prior to acceptance.

Apply first – consult and confirm later

3. Priority of work

- 3.1 The current budget headings which we operate to, and the priorities of the Town Council will allow officers to make informed decisions about the priority for funding where only one grant or sponsorship may be held by an organisation in a 12-month period. As an example, the 'National Lottery Awards for All' only allows for one grant in 12 months and the councils first application could be toward Christmas Lights, which might be a priority at this time; in the second application we might be committed to support Extended Schools Activities and so make an application for Sports Coaching. These smaller grants pose no real problem in the decision making process as they require minimal input from officers, are not likely to be controversial and need to be for the changing needs of the Town Council.
- 3.2 Larger applications however require much more officer time in collating information in support of each application and may need some member consultation. As an example, The Town Hall and Play Areas both require funding applications, but the grants available could be obtained from the same sources and one application will affect the success of the other, despite the ability to hold more than one grant at a time. This is because all Lottery providers also work to 'my fair share' which means resources are allocated geographically as well as by their worth.
- 3.3 While no projects other than those described above are likely to cause any great issues at present, it does require highlighting at this time to avoid complication or debate at a later stage should a more controversial decision be made.

Shared and limited resources need to be prioritised

4. Identification of Funding

- 4.1 Currently Folkestone Town Council has access to a number of search tools which are very useful and could be used by more officers and Councillors if required. However, there are numerous sources of funding information sent out and within the Town Council we will not always have all the information about every type of grant or to seek sponsorship.
- 4.2 With a strategy and procedure in place for identifying available funding we could make applications more quickly, allocate a responsible officer, provide partnership funding where needed, and link applications to current provision and activities.
- 4.3 As already indicated there are sources of funding available for different projects but sometimes from the same source. If an application is made without the knowledge of a central control point it could jeopardise both applications and, more seriously, could be interpreted as attempting to mislead the grant giver.

Joined up thinking makes a stronger case

5. The Application

- 5.1 Having identified possible sources of funding or sponsorship Officers and Councillors can decide on priorities, if any, and identify a lead officer to take the responsibility for the application and which staff can be used to put the application together. In this way deadlines can be set for obtaining information and work on the application can move more quickly, through shared workloads if needed to ensure the application is submitted when required.
- 5.2 With larger applications there is also a list of guidelines to be worked through, which identifies the way to present an application, supporting information required, references and funding available from the applying organisation. Being coordinated by one person, a level of expertise will be developed and requirements of the application will be met more easily and even previous applications could be cut and pasted to make up new applications.

Coordination from one team can save time and increase success

6. Joint Funding

- 6.1 Many grant applications require the applicant to provide funding from their own organisation of between 10-50% of the total project costs and this need not mean any additional resources being allocated by the Town Council, but merely the identification of existing budget headings. It means that applications do not have to wait for an allocation of funding before they can be submitted, if existing resources meet the demands of the application.

- 6.2 Joined up funding can also benefit more than one organisation at a time and provide both capital and revenue expenditure toward overall project costs. As an example working with Migrant workers could provide funding for the Town Council to provide a Community Support Officer, but also provide funding to education providers, interpreters and police to provide additional resources such as information sessions, information packs and meetings with community leaders.
- 6.3 Joint funding from local partners also strengthens cases for funding by showing that there is a real partnership in place and a commitment to drive projects forward.

Joint Funding need not involve real money

7. Achieving a Joined Up Approach

- 7.1 On occasion it will only require basic information to be passed to the Lead Officer to make them aware that a grant or sponsorship has or is about to be applied for by a department or partnership organisation. However there is a real need for a more in depth explanation of requirements or current undertakings with regard grant or sponsorship applications.
- 7.2 An advice and application sheet is attached to this document as a suggested way forward which will meet the identified needs at present for information sharing. It will be possible and likely that as we get even more involved with grants and sponsorship that this information sheet may need changes which are not identified as yet.
- 7.3 It might be that the Town Council can hold the money on behalf of a community group or organisation. A formal resolution and acceptance of terms and conditions would apply.

More money for groups means more money for us

8. Training

- 8.1 As with all resources held by the Town Council we should employ 'Economy of Effort' when tackling all projects and activities. We should limit duplication of attendance on training courses or conferences when not justified.
- 8.2 Various funding bodies now offer workshops free of charge or conferences which discuss and address the rolling out of new and existing programmes of funding. However, these are rarely needed and are intended for the novice fund raiser or organisations which have no fund raising experience at all.
- 5.3 The new Town Clerk has attended formal training courses in fund raising and obtained certificates in Fund Raising Practice. The Town Clerk is also aware of Funding Codes of Practice and updates annually on new programmes and opportunities for funding.

Other members of the Council will receive internal training from the Town Clerk in small grant applications and develop a good level of proficiency across a wide range of funding programmes.

- 8.4 By training dedicated “Funding Officers” they can pass on points of interest to the appropriate Officers in identifying funding programmes and in putting together an internal training programme for other members of staff wishing to expand their expertise. This is important when individuals seeking funding and funding courses or conferences may not be aware of the FREE or discounted opportunities available. Add to the price of attending a conference the price of travel, overnight accommodation and expenses – can be significant.

9. Feedback & Engagement

- 9.1 The relevant parent committee/ Full Council can be informed of applications made, those which were successful, those that were not and where learning points could be taken on-board.
- 9.2 By working closely with community organisations we will have a better understanding of their needs.
- 5.4 The Town Council and partners will be encouraged to publicise funding where it has been successful through social media, website and printed publications. Specific attention to be given where this meets the Strategic Plan priorities.

———— **POLICY ENDS HERE** ————

GRANT/ SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION SHARE

Team:	
Responsible Officer:	
Grant / Sponsorship Applied for:	
Grant / Sponsor Name:	
Grant / Sponsor Contact if applicable:	
Amount Requested:	
Confirmation date:	
Outcome:	
Brief Summary of Request:	
Date Submitted:	
Date Funding Required by	
Town Clerk aware	YES / NO
Management Team aware	YES / NO
Councillors briefed	YES/ NO
Matched funded? Date / Resolution / Budget	
Name of Project if applicable	
Comments	