##### **How to complete the Grant Application Form:**

##### **Advice for applications over £2,000**

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| Chichester District Council recognises that grants and concessions are an important way in which we can support a wide range of external organisations to make a difference in the District.  Following a recent review, new priorities for the fund have been agreed and new criteria have been developed.  We do not have enough funding available to support every good bid so competition will be strong and some applicants will be disappointed. These guidelines have been produced to help you make sure that your bid has the best chance. |

General Guidelines

* Ask us for advice

If you are interested in applying to this programme you must contact us first. We will give advice about eligibility, completing the application form and submission dates. There are several Funding Advisers specialising in supporting different types of project, you can get in touch via the Enquiry Form on the grants webpage here [www.chichester.gov.uk/grants](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/grants). The form asks you for a brief introduction to your organisation and project idea so that the appropriate Adviser can come back to you.

If you would like to discuss your application with someone independent, advice and support on fundraising is available for local community groups from Voluntary Action Arun and Chichester (VAAC) [admin@vaac.org.uk](mailto:admin@vaac.org.uk). Advice for businesses is available from the Council [www.chichester.gov.uk/business](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/business) or nationally [www.gov.uk/business](http://www.gov.uk/business).

Advice to applicants

What can I use this form to apply for?

You should use this application form if you want to apply for a grant of more than £2,000. Although the budget has been increased for 2025/26, the typical maximum award is expected to be £25,000. We will not normally fund more than 50% of the cost of a project. The programme is competitive so please speak to us as early as possible in developing your project proposal and particularly if you are interested in applying for a large grant.

This programme awards grants to groups and organisations meeting our priorities. Ask your Adviser for details of what we will not fund and refer to the separate Eligibility guidance notes.

### Completing the application form: GUIDANCE BY QUESTION

* There is space at the top of the first page for you to write in the name of the Funding Adviser you spoke with and is a requirement of the process. Bids received without prior contact with a Funding Adviser will not be accepted and will be returned without being assessed.

### Section 1: ABOUT YOUR ORGANISATION

4. If you would like information, support or advice about constitutions or other governance issues you can contact VAAC on (01243) 840305 or E-mail [admin@vaac.org.uk](mailto:admin@vaac.org.uk). If you are an un-constituted group you can apply by identifying a constituted organisation who agrees to ‘sponsor’ your bid, please talk to your Adviser about this approach.

5. Attach any supplementary information on aims and objectives or a similar statement of purpose if available as a supporting document.

6. (ii) This will not be taken into account for assessing the bid, in order to ensure decisions are made transparently it may impact how we operate the decision-making process.

### Section 2: ABOUT YOUR PROJECT OR SERVICE (page 2)

8. This asks you to link your project or service to our ‘priorities’. You should tick beside the priority description that best fits with what you want to do. All applications are expected to fit **one** priority.

The priorities under each heading are updated annually and are explained in the guidance note *“*What are Chichester District Council’s Priorities for funding”. If you are applying under the “Stronger Communities” priority please be aware that Panel are particularly looking for projects and services that are able to strongly evidence that they are: locally appropriate, they are responding to significant need (particularly where the Council is a referring organisation) and can demonstrate their service’s impact. Grants for businesses related to Inward Investment will only be accepted for projects which in commercial premises in Chichester District.

There arealso seven “Principles” that we look for in a strong application.

Applications will be assessed against the principles (listed below) please have these in mind when completing the application form.

* Will the project increase participation or employment?
* Does the project demonstrate working with others?
* Does the project have clear objectives and outcomes?
* Does the project demonstrate Value for Money?
* Is there evidence that the project is needed or addresses a recognised gap in provision?
* How have you designed the project to minimise its climate impact?
* Is the project ready for implementation?

1. The summary should capture the essential details of your project or service in a suggested maximum of 250 words. Details of ineligible activities are set out in full in the guidance note “What and who is eligible for grants” available on the website.

(ii) We will not normally consider funding more than 50% of the total project cost.

10. We will not fund projects that have already happened, so please allow time for your application to be processed. The Panel meeting dates are advertised on our web page but please do speak to your Adviser about timescales. All grant offers are normally valid for **12-months** from the offer confirmation, unless previously arranged. You must talk to your Adviser if you would like to make a request for the offer to be valid for longer or any other special arrangement for the timing or duration of funding. We would encourage you to only bid if the project is likely to be completed with 24 months.

1. We expect applications to be for the benefit of residents and businesses of our District. Maps showing the Wards or Parishes in the District are available here:

[Community maps - Chichester District Council](https://www.chichester.gov.uk/article/24653/Community-maps)

12. (i) Explain why you want to do this project, what are the issues you are looking to address?

(ii) Independent supporting documentation will particularly strengthen your response, for example survey analysis, market research or collated and interpreted local statistics that evidence the need for your project or service. Also mention here if you have consulted any other agencies in developing the project and if your intended beneficiaries are involved in developing the project. If you are applying under ‘Stronger Communities’ for an established service, then things like feedback from users or beneficiaries, impact assessments or annual reports might help you to respond well to this question. Tell us who refers to your service and if Council services are referring do not assume we are aware of this, please give details.

(iii) Please complete this accurately and research the area if you do not know. Space has been provided for you to add why your proposals are also needed, how they are complimentary or how they are different. This adds to our understanding of the need for the service. There is a high level of competition for funds, proposals that simply duplicate other provision are therefore unlikely to be successful. We welcome applications developed in partnership.

13. The Panel are looking to support projects that make a big difference in our communities, please explain for them what you hope to achieve. Outcomes are the changes that your project makes over time. In describing your outcomes, you should be showing how your project or service will contribute to our priorities. Be clear and use examples. A SMART approach to answering this question can be useful, you can ask your Adviser to talk to you about this question. If this is an existing project you could also enclose evaluation reports/feedback or similar documents to support this answer.

1. One way in which you might be responding to this is by supporting a particular group of people or a place that might be considered to be disadvantaged. You can find more information about this by looking at national data e.g. ONS data tools or more local sources, e.g. Sussex Community Foundation’s report [Tackling-Poverty\_Sussex-Uncovered\_2023.pdf (sussexcommunityfoundation.org)](https://sussexcommunityfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Tackling-Poverty_Sussex-Uncovered_2023.pdf) which gives a helpful overview of issues. If you are applying under the ‘Stronger Communities’ Priority then we expect you to provide a detailed explanation in this response.

Information to help you with this question, is available on the Council grants programme page on the website ([www.chichester.gov.uk/grants](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/grants)) ‘Evidencing need’ guidance note.

1. If the project creates employment, identify the number and types of roles created (apprenticeship, part-time etc). We also look at participation in a wider sense depending on the project. This could include: the number of new/different people who will become involved, volunteering opportunities, additional activities or perhaps creating access to new sites or facilities.
2. Minimising your project’s climate impact is the newest funding principle and all projects are expected to identify in this response what their projects impact is. There is a detailed guidance note available on [www.chichester.gov.uk/grants](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/grants).
3. Most human activity results in carbon emissions – show us in your response that you are aware of how this project contributes – you might include reference to buildings, resources, supply chain, travel.
4. How have you designed the project to minimise the impact on the climate (e.g. ensuring public transport accessible, reusing resources) a more detailed list of considerations is provided in the guidance note and links to sector specific advice are also provided on the note. Your answer is expected to be proportionate to your organisation’s and your project’s scale.
5. Your group or organisation might have adopted an Environment Policy or have introduced different ways of working to reduce climate impact. Have you looked at your energy providers, supply chain, carbon offset?

### Delivery and management (page 5)

17. (i) Working in partnership is one of the “principles” we look for in a strong bid. Mention by name other groups or organisations who are supporting or participating in this project. Or refer to a Business Plan or other supporting document to evidence this. Where possible, we are keen to support local supply chains. Where you are buying goods or services from a provider in the district, please mention this in your answer.

1. We expect that you will have project management in place appropriate to the scale of the project. If you are applying as an informal group of volunteers for example, tell us briefly how you will organise running your project. For a larger scale application tell us who will oversee the delivery of your service and how will they ensure that an efficient service is provided? If you are requesting a contribution to general running costs, then evidence of sound and sustainable planning will support your case.

18. Your answer should show that you are aware of relevant legislation and have complied accordingly (this will vary depending on your project or service).

If your project involves working with children and/or adults - as defined in the Care Act 2014 - we would expect you to have an appropriate Protection Policy in place. A child meaning a person under the age of 18 years; and an “adult” meaning a person over the age of 18 who meets the following criteria:

Has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and;

- Is experiencing, or is at risk of abuse or neglect

- As a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of, abuse or neglect

Similarly, if you work with the above groups, do you carry out checks on staff that are likely to have direct contact? Your group’s formal position on this should also be mentioned.

If you do not have any of the above Policies, need help with updating them, or want any other information on policies, you can contact VAAC (see point 4 for their contact details).

This is also where you should indicate that you have a licensed establishment, or if you are licensed for child provision, adult care provision, bail provision or any similar activity.

19. You may tick ‘No’ and move on. If you answer ‘Yes’, you should demonstrate that you have all the necessary permissions in place for your project to happen. You should have planning permission before making an application. You will need to supply copies of quotes (we prefer three quotes especially for large schemes) and copies of permissions with your bid where relevant.

**Section 3: FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT (page 6)**

20. If you are a new organisation without a financial track record, mention this to your Adviser before completing the application form. This is because you are likely to need to provide us with some alternative information (a financial projection or similar).

1. Please be aware that if you have significant levels of unallocated reserves then you will not receive funding. If you have a formal Reserves Policy you can just enclose a copy of this with your application. You may want to refer to the guidance on reserves issued by the Charity Commission at <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/> or, request their booklet CC19 – *Charities’ Reserves* for further guidance and information. Larger organisations or those requesting funding towards ongoing services are likely to be asked questions about future sustainability and your response here can pre-empt queries around this. You can also submit supporting documents: business plans/fundraising plans.

(v) If you are able to re-claim VAT, then the costs shown at Q23 should be net.

22. This question lets you show that other people are sufficiently interested in your scheme to offer “in kind” support – this could include donations of equipment or advice, concessionary rates for room hire or equipment. You should also mention here if local Councillors support you.

Volunteer contributions can be listed as an in-kind contribution as a proportion of the match funding for a project. There are different models for working out “volunteer value”. Your Adviser can talk to you about the options for this. We will accept reasonable estimates of volunteer value as part of your ‘Other contributions’ in Question 23 but please explain the basis of your workings somewhere as part of the bid.

23. **Section A** - If you are applying for funding towards a one-off project, please list all relevant costs in the table provided. For more complicated projects or existing services we are happy for you to breakdown costs on separate sheet and attach it to your application. If you are applying for a recurring project, the costing for this answer should detail the running costs of your service for a minimum of 1 financial year. If you are able to re-claim VAT, then the costs shown should be net.

**Section B** - This should show who you have approached for funding, what funding is confirmed and what is pending (tell us if you know the timeframe for a decision on pending bids). Include in this how much you as a group are contributing to the project. Please note that evidence of active fundraising and confirmed ‘match funding’ will be looked on favourably. The Panel will not normally consider a contribution greater than 50% of the total cost of your project. Support on identifying other funding opportunities is available from VAAC and from your Funding Adviser.

Please see below for an example of a completed table as a demonstration:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Section A: Project or Service Budget Breakdown*** | | ***Section B: How your project is funded*** | |
| ***Item or activity*** | ***Item/ activity***  ***cost*** | ***CDC contribution (this application)*** | ***Other contributions***  ***(£, from where, secured?)*** |
| Hire of venue x 3 (2hrs) | £200 | £100 | £100- Parish Council |
| Promotional costs: printing | £150 | £50 | £100- Fundraiser |
| **TOTALS** | **£ 350** | **£ 150** | **£ 200** |

24. This question also gives you the opportunity to demonstrate that you have planned for sustaining your project into the future. We are happy to receive all relevant supporting documents, particularly business plans or funding strategies.

Section 4: SIGNING-OFF YOUR APPLICATION (page 8)

25. This Declaration is only for applications using a Sponsor.

26. All applicants should sign this Declaration. If you are submitting your application electronically, please send either a scanned copy of this page with the relevant declaration(s) signed or send a signed paper copy of the page to us separately by post (with a cover note).

The declaration includes a tick box relating to Subsidy Control. At the time of writing, rules have been adopted following the withdrawal from the European Union but it may be that further legislation is introduced, identifying the threshold for commissioning of public service contracts.  Alternative wording may need to be provided, and in this scenario the application form will be updated.  If you are unsure whether this restriction applies speak to us.

### Thank you for completing the form!

* Next Steps

I’ve completed the form and collated my supporting documents, what next?

Your Adviser will be able to tell you the date by which your application will need to be received in order to be considered by the next Panel or meeting. Panel dates are on the webpage.

If you are happy with your application, have ticked off the Checklist and have no further questions (remember we cannot provide advice once your application has been submitted), then please send it to us.

You can send it by E-mail or post:

* By E-mail to: [funding@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:funding@chichester.gov.uk) (note: you will need to be able to scan page 8 or send it separately by post)

Please note that any attachments with supporting documents should not exceed 10MB (in total) in one email. If therefore you need to send additional emails, please title them carefully e.g. “*Grant Application – name of organisation – 1 of 2*”

* If it is easier to submit a hard copy application, or if there are attachments you can’t scan, please post it to: Grant Programme applications: Financial Services, Chichester District Council, East Pallant House, 1 East Pallant, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1TY

What happens once I have submitted my application?

* You will receive a standard acknowledgment (Email or letter) confirming the likely timeframe for a decision. You will be contacted for missing information or to clarify a query, but we cannot give advice on improving an application once it has been submitted, so please do call with any queries before you submit.

* Your application will be assessed shortly after submission so please respond to any request for missing information as soon as you can. The assessment is not the decision-making process; it is used to make recommendations to the Funding Panel. Applications will be considered by a Panel of Councillors who meet four times a year.
* We aim to notify you of the outcome of your application after 7 working days of the Panel meeting. As part of the Call-In process, decisions of the Panel are available on the Council’s website a day after the meeting. However, as this is not a final decision, applicants are strongly discouraged from acting on that information.
* The specific terms and conditions of any offer will be explained in writing to successful applicants, and you will be asked to sign an Agreement which includes details about payment. As mentioned elsewhere in this guidance, retrospective costs are not eligible under this programme, which would be considered as any expenditure prior to the date of the Agreement.
* You should be aware that, if you receive a grant, we will expect feedback in the form of either an ‘Annual’ or an ‘End of Grant’ report, informing us of the outcomes of your project and documenting the spend. A guidance note on what this should cover will be provided to successful applicants.