Town Council Grants Guidance - BSTC

1. Purpose of the Grants Guidance

The purpose of this guidance is to ensure that all grant funding awarded by the Town Council is:

- Fair, transparent and consistent
- Aligned with the Council's strategic objectives, including the Neighbourhood Plan
- Based on clear, recorded decision-making
- Accessible to eligible organisations
- Capable of being applied by different councillors and officers with broadly similar outcomes.

2. Principles Underpinning Grant Decisions

All grant decisions should be guided by the following principles:

1. Public benefit: funding must provide a demonstrable benefit to Budleigh Salterton and its residents.
2. Strategic alignment: projects that support Neighbourhood Plan objectives and Council priorities should be weighted positively.
3. Proportionality: funding levels should be proportionate to impact and need.
4. Transparency & Equity: reasons for awards or refusals must be clear, recorded, and defensible.
5. Equity: no organisation should be advantaged simply through familiarity or prior funding history.

3. Eligibility to Apply

Eligible applicants should include:

- Registered charities
- Community and voluntary organisations
- Not-for-profit clubs and associations
- Schools and educational bodies (for community-benefit activities)
- Social enterprises operating for community benefit.

Ineligible applications would normally include:

- Individuals
- For-profit businesses (unless delivering a defined community benefit)
- Projects primarily benefiting a private membership or commercial activity
- Retrospective funding (unless explicitly permitted).

In deciding for each application, the council will assess using the following criteria:

Criterion	Description
Community benefit	Clear benefit to residents of Budleigh Salterton
Target population	Benefit to priority groups (children, young people, elderly, groups requiring special support)
Strategic alignment	Supports Neighbourhood Plan or Council objectives
Accessibility & inclusion	Open access; affordability; equality considerations
Financial need & leverage	Evidence of match funding, fundraising, or financial hardship
Deliverability	Realistic costs, timescales, governance
Environment	Actions to lessen the impact on the environment

Adopted