



Lewes District Council



**Lewes District Council**

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Community  
Grants Programme

April 2025 – March 2028

# Overview

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The council recognises the immense contribution that voluntary organisations and community groups make to the district, and has set aside an annual budget to support such activities in line with council priorities, providing a local response to local need.

The Community Grants programme will launch on Friday 17th May 2024 and close at midnight on Tuesday 30th July 2024.

We anticipate a large volume of applications and will not be able to fund all eligible applicants. Please be concise and accurate in the figure you are requesting.

Applications must demonstrate clearly how their project or service meets the criteria. Those that do will be considered by the Grants Working Group, with recommendations presented to Cabinet in November 2024 and applicants informed before Christmas. Payments will commence in April 2025.

Grants will be awarded annually for a cycle of three years commencing April 2025 - March 2028, giving some security to long term services which will be subject to monitoring and evaluation.

The grants programme will focus on two key areas in line with the Community Grants Policy and the Council's Corporate Plan. We welcome applications from voluntary sector organisations (including branches of national charities) and local constituted groups which can demonstrate:

- That projects or services benefit residents of Lewes District.
- Sound Governance.
- Service sustainability, remaining effective for three years at least (in line with the grants cycle) with sound financial plans in place.
- A clear commitment to principles of equality and safeguarding.
- A commitment to Community Wealth Building.
- The use of secure data systems which are GDPR compliant.
- A demonstrable need, i.e. the service is unlikely to be delivered without a grant. Evidence of any match funding or other contributions should also be included in the application.

## **Applicants may apply under one of two categories.**

Only one application per organisation

<sup>1</sup> The principles of CWB are to use the combined power of institutions, businesses and communities in order to retain as much wealth as possible in the local economy; creating opportunity locally, creating new local jobs and new locally owned enterprises.



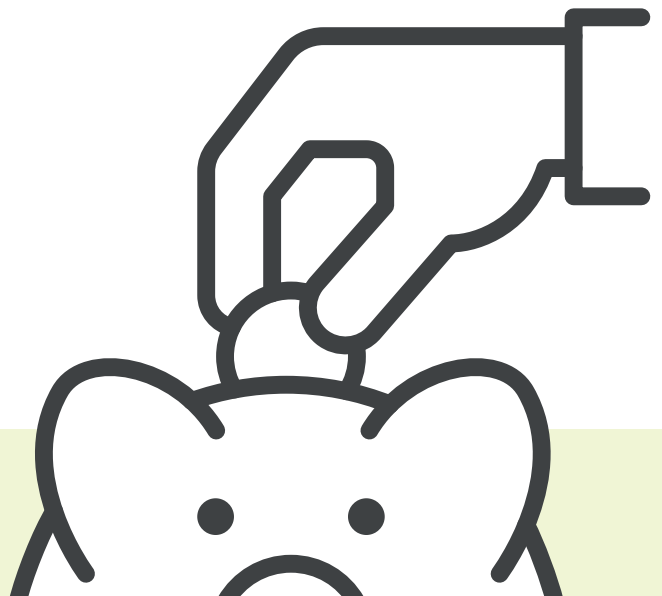
# Category 1

## Cost of Living

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**Grants of £500 - £10,000 per annum.**

- **Specialist Advice**, including:
  - Debt management
  - Welfare & Benefits
  - Universal Credit
  - Budgeting
  - Employment rights
  - Housing and homelessness
- **Food initiatives** (working towards sustainable outcomes supporting people to access affordable and healthy food), including:
  - Community Supermarkets/ larders/ fridges/ cooperatives
  - Community Growers
  - Partnership projects
- **Community Wellbeing & VCSE support**, including:
  - Advice & support for local charities and grass-roots projects.
  - Community cohesion initiatives.
  - Support for the VCSE's district-wide cost-of-living response.
- **Fuel poverty/ access**, including:
  - Tackling fuel poverty
  - Energy saving advice
  - Green energy initiatives



## Category 2

# Equality & Inclusion

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**Grants of £200 - £5,000 per annum.**

- **Targeted services/ initiatives for protected groups:**
  - Age
  - Disability
  - Gender reassignment
  - Race and ethnicity
  - Religion, belief and culture
  - Sex
  - Sexual orientation
  - Pregnancy / Maternity
- **Annual events**  
A focus on the celebration/support of particular protected groups.
- **Digital Exclusion**  
(including digital poverty and digital literacy).

If you have any questions about eligibility, contact:  
**[funding@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk](mailto:funding@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk)**

