

Community Grants 2011/12

Scheme information and scoring criteria

Community grant scheme from 1 April 2011 onwards

The council has a very limited budget for discretionary grants to parish councils and voluntary or community organisations, (including clubs and societies) wholly or partly based in Vale of White Horse District (the Vale). The council will not fund projects or services that are more appropriately funded by other organisations and it will not act as the sole funder of a project. It requires that applicants demonstrate widespread support by obtaining most of its funding from other organisations. Projects will have to show some financial contribution from other sources, for example their own funds, their local parish council or support from other funding organisations. Contributions 'in-kind' will be considered.

All projects must comply with disability discrimination legislation, the council's equal opportunities policy and race equality scheme (see www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk) and must be open to all sections of the community (accepting that some projects or services may be focussed on certain sections of the community, for example: young people or people with disabilities).

Assessment methodology for community grant applications

All applications will be assessed using the scoring system shown below. Applications that score the highest number of points are likely to be funded.

Contributing to the Vale Community Strategy

up to 60 points

Scores of up to 60 points are available dependent on how well the project contributes to the following priorities:

- Healthier communities
- improving the quality of life for older people
- safer communities
- fostering a greater sense of the community
- a good understanding of town and parish priorities
- involving young people
- helping those without a car to access services.

Does the project contribute to at least one of these priorities? Scores are based on how well a project contributes to a particular priority.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable homes • good quality homes • access to good quality green spaces, sports, cultural and leisure facilities • addressing economic weaknesses • building on our economic strengths • maintaining and enhancing the health and vitality of market towns • a low carbon Vale • living with extreme weather • using resources wisely • reducing waste and increasing recycling • a high quality natural and historic environment. 	
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Applications that do not score more than 19 points in this section will not be scored further and will be withdrawn from the evaluation process.

Contributing to the Council’s own priorities **up to 40 points**

Scores of up to 40 points are available dependent on how well the project contributes to the following priorities:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting people’s need for housing • supporting a vibrant local economy • rising to the challenge of climate change • helping to maintain a safe Vale • keeping the Vale a clean place to live 	<p>Does the project contribute to at least one of these priorities? Scores are based on how well a project contributes to a particular priority.</p>
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Consultation **up to 20 points**

Consultation	<p>To what extent has the relevant community been consulted and participated in putting the proposal together? The broader and more extensive consultation will score more points.</p>
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Local need**up to 20 points**

Meeting a local need	How well is the evidence of local need? Evidence from parish plans or gathered through various consultation exercises to support the project will score more points.
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Community benefit**up to 20 points**

Community benefit	Who will benefit from the project? The wider number of beneficiaries the better. Projects that help to assist minority groups will score more points in this section.
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Finance**up to 15 points**

To encourage funding of projects from a variety of sources applicants are encouraged to ask for smaller grant awards. In this section, the smaller the grant amount requested equates to a higher number of points. Scores of up to 15 points are available dependent on the percentage of the project costs requested:

Percentage of the project costs	Points available
Up to 20 per cent of the project costs	15 points
21 – 40 per cent of the project costs	10 points
41 – 60 per cent of the project costs	5 points

Summary of scoring system**maximum score 175 points**

The maximum score of 175 points is made up as follows:

Assessment factor	Maximum points available
Priorities of the community strategy	60
Priorities of the council	40
Consultation	20
Local need	20
Community benefit	20
Finance	15

Total points	175
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Applications scoring over 115 points will be eligible for an award, subject to **budget availability**:

Total points score	Option 1
150 or more	officers recommend that the project is a funding priority
125 or more	officers recommend that the project receives some funding
115 or less	officers recommend that the project does not receive funding

General conditions of all grants

Grants must be spent solely for the purpose they are given. All grants will be offered for a period of one year from the date of the decision. Only one grant for a particular project or service will be awarded to an organisation in any one financial year. The council's support must be acknowledged on all publicity for the project or service.