

Neighbourhood Forum Comparisons

Council	Overview	Criteria for expenditure	Budget	Any other information
Bedford (Mayoral authority)	Ward fund	<p>When this application is received, and before accepting the application, the applicant/s will be contacted to verify the following details:</p> <p>The applicant/s must have all relevant policies in place regarding the proposed activity or spend</p> <p>Two quotes must be submitted for each item of intended purchase</p> <p>The applicant/s must have a relevant bank account applicable to a group/organisation, this cannot have an individual person's name on the account.</p> <p>The applicant/s cannot spend the money retrospectively.</p>	No information available	<p>Any resident or community group who wish to apply for funding should contact their local ward councillor either by phone or e-mail requesting a donation giving a brief outline of what they intend the money to be used for.</p> <p>If the Councillor wishes to support the scheme then they complete a form which is submitted to Neighbourhood Support/Members Services at Bedford Borough Council, applying to use their allocated fund for a project within their ward.</p>

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Broxbourne	Neighbourhood Projects – the 6 police areas share the budget based on a specific formula. The projects are connected to community safety matters. Projects over £1,500 have to be approved by the Crime and Disorder Co-ordinating Group.	The Council has set very wide parameters to the types of projects that could be considered, provided there is evidence to show the proposal will potentially improve community safety or quality of life in that area.	£100,000 split between the 6 Police areas in the Borough	Projects could include fencing, lighting improvements or additional targeted actions by the Council or the Police to address an identified problem of anti-social behaviour. Capital Projects – e.g. school requiring additional funding for a project can apply.

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Cornwall	<p>Each Cornwall Councillor has a small grant allocation to assist projects run by voluntary and community groups in the Cornwall Council area they represent.</p> <p>The grants can be used for a wide range of groups and activities including helping vulnerable children or adults, helping young people, providing facilities for older people, supporting community facilities, local environment projects and projects to tackle community safety issues.</p>	<p>Applications should be for projects which deliver a demonstrable benefit to the community within the electoral division. Here are some examples: Improvements to a community centre, publishing a new parish newsletter, Projects involving the wellbeing of older or younger people, purchase of community play equipment, projects that help tackle unemployment and public events</p>	No information available	<p>Grants range between a minimum of £100 and a maximum of £1,000.</p> <p>Projects not eligible: Retrospective funding to fill funding gaps, salary or routine administration costs, political activities, exclusively religious activities (although faith groups may receive funding for projects with wider community benefit where the primary purpose is not religious), projects which show actual/potential unlawful discrimination within the terms of the Equality Act 2010, statutory activities/requirements, hospitality, applications from private sector organisations, clothing for the sole use of an individual, funding for national or regional projects (except those delivering specific benefits within the councillor's electoral division)</p>

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Dacorum	Their scheme ended about 4 years ago – where each councillor had £2K to spend annually. A scheme is no longer in existence.			

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Doncaster (Mayoral authority)	<p>No Area Committees are currently established.</p> <p>They used to operate a 'Flexible Ward Members Budget' several years ago, however this has since ceased. Each Ward was allocated £10k to fund Ward Member and Neighbourhood priorities.</p> <p>Doncaster Council is currently in the process of looking to develop a proposal to create an Environmental Flexible Fund Programme which, if approved, will be designed to provide funding for environmental improvements and projects.</p>	<p>Proposed Environmental Flexible Fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the environment and open spaces leading to increased use of green space • Support projects that divert waste from landfill and encourage recycling • Improving local wildlife habitats • Support participation in environmental activities • Increased community involvement in green spaces to reduce vandalism and littering • Help educate people to take more pride in their environment • Help get people active – physically, socially and economically. 	£2,500 per ward is proposed for the Environmental Flexible Fund	There will also be clear guidance on what will not be funded and this criteria is currently being developed. Likely to be included are: Capital contingencies, projects outside Doncaster Borough, retrospective costs and outstanding debts.

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East Herts	<p>Had a similar funding system that ended about 4 years ago. Cllrs had £500 (reduced to £250) to spend annually. Stopped as grants were not meeting corporate priorities and routinely awarded to the same beneficiaries. Now have a system of 'community grants' where the public (and councillors) can apply for funding.</p>			

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LB Hackney (Mayoral authority)	<p>The Council has 21 Wards. The Councillors in these Wards will form bodies known as Ward Forums to represent and promote the needs of the ward within the Council.</p> <p>They meet three times a year at venues within the ward and look at issues relating to the residents within the ward. They cannot make decisions.</p>			<p>The meetings are led by the Councillors and supported by Council officers. Ward Councillors will determine whether there will be specific roles for residents in managing the business of the Forum.</p> <p>Councillors can opt to hold joint ward meetings if they so wish.</p>

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Hertfordshire	<p>There are two fundamental principles:</p> <p>The funding from the Locality Budgets scheme must be used for purposes which promote the social, economic or environmental wellbeing of Hertfordshire and in particular the Member's Division</p> <p>Locality Budgets cannot be used for purposes which would be contrary to the county council's prevailing policies or be used for any purposes prohibited by law</p>	<p>Grants can be given to something that is already happening if there are still activities which require funding, but something cannot be funded retrospectively.</p> <p>There are no limits to the size of grant within the £10,000.</p> <p>A grant may be given to a business if it can be demonstrated that the grant will benefit the environment, social or economic wellbeing of the community.</p> <p>A grant may be given to fully or partly support a request. However if a grant does not fully fund a request, it is expected that alternative funding is sought.</p> <p>An organisation is a limited company, registered charity or other organisation with a recognised legal status; or an un-incorporated association with a bank account in their own name.</p>	<p>There will be an allocation of £10,000 per Member Division.</p>	<p>Grants can be made for either capital or revenue projects or both.</p> <p>Funding can be awarded to an activity outside of the Member's division if it can be demonstrated that people from within the division can benefit from the activity.</p> <p>Pooling of budgets between Members can occur when an activity covers more than one division, or be of benefit to people from more than one division.</p> <p>Payments to benefit individuals can be made, but only through an organisation which is able to support individuals.</p> <p>Members are encouraged to seek additional or matched funding.</p> <p>It is expected that each Member will use their total allocation each year. If a portion of the allocation for the year is not committed, it cannot be carried forward into the next year's allocation.</p> <p>Organisations will need to obtain and retain (for a period of 3 years) evidence of expenditure for audit purposes.</p>

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Hertsmere	Ward Improvement Initiative Scheme, where each member is allocated £500 to spend on worthwhile projects in their ward that support Hertsmere's corporate goals.	<p>WIIS cannot be used to fund projects in any single ward which require further capital or revenue expenditure or create any form of ongoing year-on-year financial commitment by the council.</p> <p>Some typical improvement projects which would be eligible for consideration under WIIS are:</p> <p>Improvements to public areas, such as chairs, benches, children's play equipment, adult outdoor fitness equipment and improved signage.</p> <p>New or replacement equipment for either a community hall or meeting place which promotes greater levels of use by the local community.</p> <p>New or replacement equipment for a not-for-profit organisation whose activities support our corporate goal(s). Local events which promote our corporate goal(s) such as organised sport, physical activity, heritage or cultural life.</p>	Each of the 39 councillors has £500.	<p>Other improvement ideas not covered here may also be eligible for consideration under WIIS if they are consistent with our current corporate goals. Please note, this list is not exhaustive.</p> <p>Some typical improvement projects which would not be eligible for consideration include:</p> <p>Paying employees or other people engaged in local community work on a long-term basis. Large capital works which lead to ongoing financial commitments for the council. Projects which benefit only a few select people. Please note, this list is not exhaustive.</p>

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Leicester City Council (Mayoral Authority)	Each of Leicester's 21 wards has allocated a yearly budget of £18k which can be used to support projects that bring benefits to that ward. Applications can be made that cover a maximum of three wards and need to demonstrate benefits spanning across all of the wards. Applications can be made by individuals living, working or having any other interest in the ward as well as community groups, voluntary organisations, statutory agencies and partners.	<p>Ward community funding cannot be used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing • Full costs of infrastructure, running costs or capital investment. • Recoverable VAT. • Any liability arising out of illegality or negligence. • Any form of gambling. • Exclusively religious activity. • Political activity. • An event or activity that had already taken place. <p>New applications and activities are given priority over repeat funding. Applicants can apply for funding for more than one activity/project in the same or concurrent financial year; provided that the activity/project is different.</p>	£18K per ward annually	Applications for over £500 are considered at a ward budget meeting by the relevant ward councillors 3 times a year. For those up to £500, ward councillors may agree to support outside of the scheduled meetings.

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Mansfield (Mayoral authority)	<p>The Council has a Member Ward Allowance scheme in which each member has an annual ward allowance of £1,000 to be spent in their ward on community projects.</p> <p>The objective of the initiative is to enable citizens and communities through their local Councillor to have the opportunity to impact on neighbourhood issues with the ability to respond to the different needs of different communities.</p>	<p>Expenditure will only be approved if the following criteria are met:</p> <p>It is within the Council's statutory powers to make such a payment.</p> <p>It is for lawful purposes.</p> <p>It is in line with the Council's stated priorities.</p> <p>It is in line with the Council's policies.</p> <p>Should not be used for political purposes</p> <p>Payment will not be made leading up to a local government election e.g. 1st April–Xth May.</p> <p>Payment will not be made in the period during which notice is given of a local authority by-election.</p> <p>Payments cannot be considered to a person or organisation with debts outstanding to the Council.</p>	<p>The Council will approve an appropriate amount per ward member (currently £1,000) for each financial year.</p>	<p>(Criteria continued...)</p> <p>It is in compliance with the Council's Constitution, Financial Regulations, Contract Procedures or Codes of Practice.</p> <p>Where possible agreement should be obtained from other ward members. Expenditure is for one financial year only.</p> <p>It is not a payment for hospitality.</p> <p>Unspent allowances may be carried forward only if a commitment can be demonstrated and with the prior approval of the Head of Finance</p> <p>Unspent allocation may not be carried forward into the year of a local government election.</p> <p>Where larger projects are proposed, two or more elected ward members can pool their annual allocation subject to each of those members signing the approved form.</p>

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Middlesbrough (mayoral authority)	<p>The scheme allows Councillors to bid for capital funding for small projects within their ward.</p> <p>Councillors can only submit one bid per ward in a bidding round. A bid must be for £5,000 or more to qualify as capital funding and a maximum bid of £15,000. With a limited funding pot it is likely that bids will be prioritised and in some cases the level of funding scaled back to meet demand.</p>	<p>Capital funding is to create, improve or maintain and existing or new Council asset. It is not available to invest in an asset which is not in the Council's ownership.</p> <p>The applications are scored by a panel of officers against the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strength of link with political priorities. 2. Outputs, benefits and social value. 3. Savings, payback achieved and value for money. 4. Project risks. 	The scheme currently has £60,000 per annum for financial years 2015/16 and 2016/17.	<p>Councillors are required to complete and sign the form. However, Assistant Director support will be required to deliver the project and provide technical assistance.</p> <p>Typical schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road safety measures • Fencing • Footpaths • CCTV • Environmental improvements

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LB Newham (Mayoral authority)	There are no Area Committees. The authority does not have Councillor's Ward funds. There was something called a 'Walkabout Fund'; however, since March 2014 there have not been any funds available for Councillors at the neighbourhood level to allocate.			

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North Herts	<p>There are five Area Committees which are delegated discretionary budgets by the Council – managed by Community Services Team, each has a Community Development Officer to act as the Community Champion. The Area Committees are based on the main towns in the District.</p> <p>Grants over £500 from the funds are agreed by the Area Committee. Fast track for grants under £500, signed off by Chair and Head of Service</p>	<p>The Council is pleased to consider applications from:- Registered Charities, Bona-fide community organisations, i.e. having a constitution & elected officers, Youth Groups, Children's groups, Elderly persons' organisations, Residents Associations, Faith / cultural organisations, Village Hall Management Committees, Community / Social Enterprises,</p> <p>The Council will NOT fund Private clubs/organisations (with restricted membership) Private individuals (except for certain sporting or artistic activities), businesses/groups who operate for profit</p> <p>We do not provide funds for food, fund-raising, charitable donations, trophies, prizes or gifts, nor for events which have already taken place, or projects which have already begun.</p>	<p>Amounts vary – based on the population e.g. Baldock Area Committee - Baldock Town (3 councillors) - £8,400 Baldock East (1 councillor) - £2,900</p>	<p>“NHDC Grants Policy and Criteria is currently under review. The new grants process and eligibility to apply for support funding will be updated shortly.”</p> <p>There is an online grant application form.</p>

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St Albans	The City Neighbourhood Committees have oversight of budgets for the unparished wards.	The spend needs to relate to Council owned assets in the unparished wards.		All ward councillors must approve the project by signing 'the form' or e-mailing approval to the Head of Community Services. If there is disagreement concerning projects the councillor submitting 'the form' should indicate on 'the form' that there is disagreement and the project will then be presented to CNC and a vote taken to decide.

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Salford (mayoral authority)	<p>The council may appoint Community Committees as it sees fit, if it is satisfied that do so will ensure improved service delivery in the context of best value and more efficient, transparent and accountable decision-making.</p> <p>All of the councillors who have been elected in the wards covered by the Community Committees are appointed as voting members of their Community Committee. In addition each of Salford's Community Committees has appointed representatives of community groups as non-voting co-opted members who are entitled to make recommendations to their Community Committee.</p>			<p>Community Committees are intended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -provide a focus for the interests and concerns of local people -contribute towards the strategic development of an area, reflecting local views and to agree annual priorities: -Decide upon the use of local Devolved Budgets within criteria set by the Council, other funders and in support of priorities in the Community Action Plan. -Monitor the delivery of local services. - Support partnership working and promote community involvement in the delivery of services. - Inform the Neighbourhood Partnership Board (NPB) of the priorities from the perspective of the community. - Ensure that the Committee is broadly representative of its community and promote engagement of unrepresented groups.

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Spelthorne	The Better Neighbourhood Grant Scheme aims to help the Council work better with the community and improve well-being for residents. It funds small projects such as improvements to the local environment or support for community groups.		£1000 per councillor	There is no direct application process since the scheme is designed to promote the role of councillors in the community and they will decide how to allocate their budgets based on their local knowledge. However, councillors would be pleased to discuss the needs of any small projects that would benefit from the scheme.
Stevenage	Local Community Budget 70 th Anniversary Grant set up as of 2016	Contact local ward to apply for the grant Applications must be between £100-£500 Ward based applications only "First come first served" basis.	Each councillor gets a budget of £2,500 The Youth Mayor gets £3,300	Total of £100,800 is allocated to support initiatives across the borough.
Three Rivers	Local Area Forums which meet two or three times per year.			Until 2010 there was a scheme which provided each Area Forum with £2000 to spend a year. This was abolished as part of cost-cutting measures.

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Torbay (mayoral authority)	Used to have a similar system to Watford but no longer use it.			
LB Tower Hamlets (mayoral authority)	Currently reviewing their ward/area based activities/forums but at this time do not have any ward purses or similar schemes for Members to use.			
Tunbridge Wells	The Member Community Grants programme is intended to provide help for small community groups or organisations with projects or events in their local area or neighbourhood, and give Council Members an opportunity to support specific organisations or projects in their wards.	Projects should be based in a specific ward of the Borough and must have support from at least one Borough Council Member for that ward. Applicants may request support from more than one Member in that ward if required.	Each Member is allocated £200	

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North Tyneside (Mayoral authority)	Following feedback from elected members and in line with some national examples of best practice the Cabinet have allocated £200 annually to each Ward Councillor to spend in their Ward with community or voluntary sector groups. The intention is to help Ward Councillors make a small investment in local community capacity.	This is money that has been allocated to the Ward Councillor to provide small investments aimed at developing community capacity. The funding will help deliver at least one of the priorities set out in the “Our North Tyneside” plan of: Our People, Our Places, Our Economy	Each Councillor has £200. In some wards they pool this.	The Young Mayor has a small pot of money that is available for young people to apply for projects that they are leading on and that have a community benefit. Young people’s applications are usually around the amount of £250. They have been for higher amounts in the past, but because of spending restraints the amount has been reduced.

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North Warwickshire / Warwickshire CC	The Grant Fund is mainly aimed at community and voluntary organisations, and each County Councillor is allocated £5,000 to support small-scale community-run projects that meet local needs. This could be through running a project or event, improving a facility, or purchasing equipment.	<p>We will not fund...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private businesses or profit-making organisations. • Statutory organisations such as County and Borough Council, Police, and NHS agencies. The exception to this is Town and Parish Councils. • Contributions towards major refurbishment, building work costing over £5K. • Groups that have failed to account for the expenditure of any previous grants. • A contribution to for an unspecified purpose. • Projects that promote religious or party political beliefs. • Projects which have already taken place before the grant has been agreed. • Prizes • Loan or debt repayments <p>WCC may choose not to fund a project that is politically sensitive or contains politically sensitive elements.</p>	£5000 for each county councillor	

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Welwyn Hatfield	Their scheme ended 2 years ago. Each of the authorities 48 councillors had £2k to spend annually. Scheme ended as authority wanted funds allocated elsewhere.			

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Wigan	<p>The Brighter Borough initiative provides a fund for councillors to propose and support schemes that improve the environment and benefit the community within their Wards.</p>	<p>Any proposal which aims to achieve Council objectives by improving the environment, enhancing community facilities or helping to develop the community spirit of an area could be eligible including: Contributions to community events, improvements to community facilities, support for school initiatives (outside the national curriculum), support for festive celebrations, improvements to open spaces.</p> <p>There should be no expectation of future funding. Funding is intended to support specific projects and not to contribute to the annual running costs of an organisation.</p>	<p>No information available</p>	<p>What cannot be funded? Activities that have already taken place or purchases that have already been made (retrospective funding) Political or religious causes or campaigns Funding can be awarded to religious groups where the funding is for projects to benefit and involve the wider community.</p> <p>Brighter Borough funding may only be used to assist individuals where it forms a contribution to the cost of representing the borough at an event of regional or national importance. In this instance the funding must be paid via a properly constituted body and not to the individual by personal cheque.</p>