

Part I

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All Ward

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
CABINET – 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025  
REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - PLACE

RECOMMENDATION OF GRANTS BOARD – ANNUAL GRANTS

**1 Executive Summary**

1.1 The Grants Board met on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025 to consider applications to the 2025/26 annual grants scheme. This report sets out the recommendations from the Grants Board relating to the allocation of funding.

**2 Recommendation(s)**

2.1 That Cabinet agrees the recommendations from Grants Board in relation to the applications for annual grants for 2025/26 as set out in table 3.5.

**3 Explanation**

3.1 Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council sought applications to its Annual Grants application process for the 2025/26 financial year. Individual organisations were invited to apply for up to £15,000 of funding to support their activities, with an approved budget total of £73,000 available.

3.2 In June 2024, the Grants Board considered and agreed the evaluation criteria for the annual grants process and also the introduction of a minimum required level of funding into application. This was introduced to ensure that the Board could adequately assess a reasonable level of funding if the scheme was again over-subscribed. (Appendix A)

3.3 On 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025, the Grants Board met to consider the thirty-four applications. As part of the application process all applicants were asked to detail the minimum contribution required to deliver their projects. Projects were scored based on the delivery of a project in full,

3.4 Officers scored the grant bids based on the agreed criteria, and a copy of the completed scoring matrix was provided to Members.(Appendix B)

3.5 After considered deliberation, Members recommend that Annual Community Grants should be awarded as follows:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Maximum funding requested</b>	<b>Minimum funding requested</b>	<b>Recommended funding Award</b>
Things in Common Ltd	£15,000	£15,000	£15,000

Culturewood CIC	£5,000	£3,500	£5,000
The Care About Foundation	£15,000	£5,000	£15,000
Northaw Transition CIC	£1,450	£1,200	£1,200
Red Kite Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Service	£15,000	£5,000	£15,000
Playtpus Swimming club for the Handicapped	£2,990	£1,495	£1,495
Health and Independent Living Support (HILS)	£15,000	£12,000	£12,000
Hatfield Food Bank	£10,000	£5,000	£8,350
			<b>£73,000</b>

- 3.6 The Grants Board noted that the strength and breadth of applications resulted in difficult decisions being made, and unsuccessful applicants will be signposted to the One Welwyn Hatfield community lottery and other grant programmes to continue their fundraising.
- 3.7 Further information relating to the reasons for these allocations can be found in the annual grants board minutes  
<https://democracy.welhat.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=159&MId=1788&Ve r=4>

## **Implications**

### **4 Legal Implication(s)**

- 4.1 A Service Level Agreement is entered into between the council and each successful grant applicant.
- 4.2 The discretionary award of grants must follow a clear evaluation criterion, this has been used to determine the successful applicants.
- 4.3 Risks of non-delivery have been considered through the evaluation (for example if we are aware the deliverability of a scheme is reliant on third party approval,

which has not already been obtained) as the Council must be reasonably confident that schemes can be delivered.

## **5 Financial Implication(s)**

- 4.4 The Annual Grants budget included in the 2025/26 budget is £73,000. Grants Board have not exceeded this potential allocation in considering the applications put forward.
- 4.5 The applications received total £361,979.50 which was more than the available budget of £73,000. Members of the Grant Board considered the scoring of applications as set out in the evaluation matrix and agreed funding on the basis of the agreed scheme criteria.

## **5 Risk Management Implications**

- 5.1 There is a risk related to providing grants to voluntary organisations in that there is the possibility that the organisation could go into administration and as such the funding would be lost. There is also the possibility that organisations do not spend the grant provided on the agreed projects or costs as per their applications.
- 5.2 The risks are mitigated as much as possible through the application process, where information has been provided about the organisation, its governance and financial structures and the reason it has applied for funding. All successful grant applicants sign up a service level agreement with the council which sets out the terms of the grant and also what information is to be provided to monitor the outcomes. The information provided includes evidence on where the funding was spent.

Risk Score Likelihood Low; Impact Medium. Overall risk score Low.

## **6 Security and Terrorism Implication(s)**

- 6.1 In complying with the Prevent duty Local Authorities need to ensure that publicly owned resources do not provide a platform for extremists and are not used to disseminate extremist views.

## **7 Procurement Implication(s)**

- 7.1 There are no procurement implications. The funds will be issued as grant payments.

## **8 Climate Change Implication(s)**

- 8.1 No climate change implications apply.

## **9 Human Resources Implication(s)**

- 9.1 No Human Resource implications apply in this case.

## **10 Health and Wellbeing Implication(s)**

10.1 Providing grants to community organisations for the benefit of Welwyn Hatfield residents assists the council in meeting its objectives to improve the health and wellbeing of the borough.

## **11 Communication and Engagement Implication(s)**

11.1 All successful organisations are required to actively promote the Council when market their event or project.

11.2 The Council will also put out a press release detailing the successful applicants and highlighting some of the projects/initiatives that the Council is supporting through this round of Grants.

## **12 Link to Corporate Priorities**

12.1 The subject of this report is linked to several of the council's priorities, and part of the consideration of applications was related to this.

## **13 Equality and Diversity**

13.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) was not completed because this report does not propose changes to existing service-related policies or the development of new service-related policies.

13.2 The applications received included evidence of the organisations' commitment to equality and diversity where relevant to the proposal.

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Date	20/02/2025

## Appendix A Evaluation criteria

<b>Scoring matrix</b>		
Project beneficiaries	3	all residents
	2	limited
	1	closed group/small numbers
previous funding	3	new project
	2	previous small grant
	1	successive grants
cost per head	3	vfm
	2	medium cost
	1	high cost per head
	0	no information
additionality	3	new project
	2	old project /new participants
	1	BAU
	3	Combination
	2	venue costs
	1	50 -100% Staffing /capital only
Compliance	3	compliant
	2	Part compliant
	1	non compliant
Alignment to Council Priorities	3	4/5 Council priorities met
	2	2/3 priorities met
	1	1 priority met
		<b>Total</b>

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Grant Board Scoring of grant BIDs and funding recommendations

Appendix B

Annual Community grants 25-26 organisations	project beneficiaries	previous funding	cost per head	additionality	venue/staff	compliance	alignment to council priorities	Total	Max Funding	Min Funding	Reccomended Award
Things in Common Limited	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	21	£15,000	£15,000	£15,000
CultureWood CIC Ltd	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	20	£5,000	£3,500	£5,000
The CareAbout Foundation	2	3	3	2	3	3	3	19	£15,000	£5,000	£15,000
Northaw Transition CIC	2	3	3	3	1	3	3	18	£1,450	£1,200	£1,200
Red Kite Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Service	3	1	2	2	3	3	3	17	£15,000	£5,000	£15,000
Platypus Swimming Club for the Handicapped	3	3	2	1	2	3	3	17	£2,990	£1,495	£1,495
Health & Independent Living Support (HILS)	3	3	2	2	1	3	2	16	£15,000	£12,000	£12,000
Hatfield Food Bank	3	1	2	1	3	3	3	16	£10,000	£5,000	£8,305
Orchard Lawn Tennis Club 1/2	2	3	2	1	2	3	2	15	£15,000	£15,000	
A Slice of Happiness - Innate Health CIC	2	3	1	3	3	2	1	15	£15,000	£15,000	
Communities 1st	3	1	2	1	3	3	2	15	£12,677	£10,000	
Medialis Wellbeing CIC	2	3	2	2	1	3	2	15	£14,663	£14,663	
Together for Welwyn Garden City	3	3	1	1	1	3	3	15	£7,500	£5,000	
The Craft Room	3	3	2	1	1	3	2	15	£10,800	£10,800	
Isabel Hospice	1	3	2	3	1	3	1	14	£6,142	£6,142	
North Mymms Youth Project	2	3	2	1	1	3	2	14	£1,696	£1,696	
Ludwick Family Centre	3	3	2	3	2	1	1	15	£15,000	£10,000	
4th Welwyn Garden City Brownie Unit	1	3	1	1	3	3	1	13	£2,500	£2,500	
First Garden Cities Homes	1	1	2	2	3	3	1	13	£4,870	£4,870	
Forever Young People	1	2	2	1	1	3	3	13	£12,168	£8,376	
Open Heavens Christian Centre Hatfield	1	3	1	1	3	3	1	13	£15,000	£14,121	
Sporting Aid	3	1	1	1	1	3	3	13	£8,200	£5,000	
Sporting Inspirations CIC	1	1	1	2	2	3	3	13	£9,345	£9,345	
Wise About Food	1	3	1	2	1	3	2	13	£13,440	£13,440	
Digswell Place Group Riding for the Disabled Association	1	3	1	2	1	3	1	12	£9,880	£9,880	
Down the Woods C.I.C	2	2	2	1	1	3	1	12	£8,590	£7,940	
Herts Disability Sports Foundation	2	1	2	1	1	3	2	12	£10,550	£10,550	
Resolve	1	1	1	1	2	3	3	12	£14,370	£10,000	
The Reanella Trust	1	3	1	1	1	3	2	12	£14,400	£9,600	
Welwyn Hatfield Woman's Refuge	1	1	1	1	2	3	3	12	£15,000	£10,000	
Future Living Hertford	3	1	1	1	1	3	1	11	£15,000	£8,550	
Orchard Lawn Tennis Club 2/2	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	11	£749	£374	
Home-Start Hertfordshire	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	9	£15,000	£15,000	
Welwyn Garden City Football and Social Club	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	£15,000	£15,000	
									£361,980	£291,042	£73,000

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