



Hartlepool
Borough Council

OFFICER DECISION RECORD

Department:

Division:

Date Input to System: 12/08/2025

Officer Making Decision: MRS DG MCGUCKIN

Subject / Description & Reason for Decision: *(for publication)*

Hartlepool Borough Council in collaboration with HOP (Hartlepool Opportunities Partnership) have worked with VCSE organisations to allocate remaining Community Recovery Funding with a priority on cohesion. Grants of between £500 and £15,000 were available to Hartlepool VCSE under key themes for investment. Themes were agreed through emerging priorities as part of Hartlepool's Community Cohesion strategy/plan. A total of £62,000 has been awarded over 11 individual projects. A further £10,000 has been awarded to Hartlepool Creative and Cultural Partnership acknowledging the significant role creativity and culture plays in community cohesion. This will support a collective plan/approach to increasing access to opportunities for Hartlepool residents and communities.

Type of Decision: Key
Forward Plan entry number: N/A

Nature of Delegation Being Exercised: Approval of Community Recovery Fund allocation and spend.

Alternative Options Considered & Rejected: N/A

Any Declared Register of Interest: No

Other Considerations:

OFFICER WITH THE DELEGATION

NAME: MRS DG MCGUCKIN

POSITION:

IN CONSULTATION WITH...

NAME: JILL HARRISON

POSITION: Exec Director of Adult & Community Servs

NAME: HAYLEY MARTIN

POSITION: Director of Legal, Governance & HR

NAME: JAMES MAGOG

POSITION: Director of Finance, IT & Digital

NAME: Brenda Harrison

POSITION: Councillor

NAME: Gary Allen

POSITION: Councillor

AUTHORISED BY

NAME: MRS DG MCGUCKIN

POSITION:

DATE:



'Our Hartlepool' Grant Opportunity

This funding opportunity is delivered in collaboration between Hartlepool Opportunities Partnership and Hartlepool Borough Council.

An opportunity for funding is available to the Hartlepool Voluntary and Community Sector, **grants between £500 and £15,000** are available for projects that will be delivered by 31st October 2025. Given the short timeframe for the projects to be delivered this opportunity will only suit projects that can quickly mobilise. This would suit projects that exist and can be enhanced, projects that have been tried and tested and could be expanded, or projects where the ideas have been worked through ready to find funding.

Applicants will support the emerging vision for cohesion, the learning from the successful projects will continue to feed into shaping this narrative, ensuring the story of Hartlepool and bringing communities together positively stays at the heart.

Collaborative submissions are strongly encouraged, and applicants will sign up to the values of collaboration as part of the process. The highest award of funding (£10,000 - £15,000) should demonstrate a multi organisation approach, funding can be used to match fund other opportunities of investment.

The funding will be allocated to support emerging cohesion priorities that have been identified as part of the Community Recovery Programme.

Hartle-youth:

Proposals will focus on the young people in Hartlepool providing opportunities for them to positively come together, design and deliver campaigns around social action encouraging youth voice, develop creative 'outputs' to build cohesion, and raise the profile of what already exists to other young people who might not be aware.

Make it Ours:

Proposals should consider opportunities for positive participation in existing activities that could be enhanced/developed or new activities that could be devised/tested. This theme is about empowering communities and individuals with the opportunity to make their community and Hartlepool better.

This might be through volunteering or bringing communities together for a particular purpose for example 'Make it Clean, Make it Green, Make it Ours'. Proposals which involve joint working between voluntary and community organisations and local agencies will be particularly welcome.

Community Connections:

Proposals will focus on bringing communities together to positively embrace difference. This could support communities new to Hartlepool to positively integrate or provide opportunities for people from different groups, communities and parts of the Borough to get to know each other better and connect.

Process:

Organisations should ensure they have appropriate governance, management and insurance arrangements in place; these will be required for all successful applications.

- The funding is a **one-off opportunity**.
- It is anticipated demand for the funding will be high therefore **only one application per organisation** will be considered.
- To maximise impact, it is encouraged that organisations should **focus on one of the themes** to ensure good quality of submissions with clear outcomes.

Timeline:

- Applicants should complete and submit their proposals by 12 noon on **Wednesday 30th July 2025**
- Applicants will be notified of the outcome by **Wednesday 6th August 2025** with an anticipation delivery can start as soon as pre-grant agreements are in place.
- Projects must be delivered by **31st October 2025**.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be a VCSE organisation based in or serving Hartlepool
- Registered charity, CIC, CIO, or community group with a constitution
- Appropriate governance, safeguarding, and financial management in place
- Other groups/communities will be considered but they will need to demonstrate they are in partnership with another organisation or being supported by HOP/Hartlepool Community Trust

Required Documents:

- Completed application form
- Recent bank statement (smaller constituted groups will need a host organisation's bank statement)
- Constitution/governing document
- Annual accounts or financial statement
- Evidence of Insurance and Safeguarding Policy (if applicable)
- Letters of Support or Partnership Agreement (if collaborative bid)

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Stage 1: Eligibility Check

- Applications reviewed against basic eligibility

Stage 2: Scoring Panel

A scoring panel made up of:

- Hartlepool Opportunities Partnership
- Local Authority (responsible for the governance of the funding)
- Wider VCSE representatives
- Community members (if appropriate)

Selection criteria: scaled 1-5

- Reputation/evidence of delivering previous programmes and projects
- Clear community benefit
- Evidence of need
- Achievability in the timeframe
- Value for money
- Inclusion and reach
- Capacity to deliver

Moderation & Decisions:

- Scores moderated for fairness
- Conflicts of interest declared – (Prior link via employment, volunteering or related to key staff)
- Funding recommendations agreed by panel
- Applicants notified within 1 week of decision

MONITORING, EVALUATION, INSIGHTS**Reporting Requirements:**

- End-of-project report or case study
- Budget statement and receipts (if required)
- Feedback on outcomes
- Photo stories/testimonials for shared learning

Impact Sharing:

- Celebration event or publication (online or in print)
- Stories shared through cross partner channels