



Grants Policy

Agreed: Full Council 25/03/2026

Next Review: March 2027

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A grant is any payment made by the Council to be used by an organisation for a specific purpose for the benefit of the community, and which is not directly controlled or administered by the Council.
- 1.2 Grants are awarded for the purpose of improving the wellbeing of our residents. There must be a clear social, economic or environmental wellbeing benefit to the project, aligning with the seven wellbeing goals outlined in the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

2. Eligibility

- 2.1 Grant recipients must be based in, or operate substantially in, the Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council area. The majority of members it serves should live in the area.
- 2.2 Applications will not normally be considered from national organisations or local groups with access to funds from national 'umbrella' or 'parent' organisations, unless funds are not available from their national bodies, or the funds available are inadequate for a specified project.
- 2.3 Grants will not be awarded:
 - a. To groups without their own bank account;
 - b. To profit organisations/businesses (Community Interest Companies are eligible);
 - c. To informal groups;
 - d. To individuals (except in the case of Town in Bloom Community Tub payments);
 - e. To religious organisations, unless the grant benefits the wider community without regards to religion;
 - f. To schools, unless the grant is for extra-curriculars (i.e. not covered by the school's budget) and is paid direct to supplier by the Council;
 - g. Retrospectively, for costs already incurred (except in the case of Town in Bloom Community Tub payments);
 - h. Towards running costs, unless in exceptional circumstances;
 - i. On an ongoing basis (e.g. annually) ;
 - j. To any cause which the Council considers inappropriate or in opposition to its aims.

3. Conditions

- 3.1 The maximum grant amount is £3,000, unless in exceptional circumstances, or as part of a Solar Farm Grant or Extra-Curricular School Transport Grant.
- 3.2 Grant applications must be submitted on our application form. Grant applications in a different format will not be considered.
- 3.3 The council will not reclaim VAT on any grants awarded.
- 3.4 Grant applications will be reviewed in the first instance by Council's officers, to ensure the form is completed correctly and the applicant is eligible. Applications which do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered by Council or the relevant committee.

- 3.5 Grant recipients should acknowledge the support given by ALCC in any advertising, programmes or other publicity for an event.
- 3.6 Grant recipients should mention ALCC in any social media posts relating to the grant funding.
- 3.7 ALCC will send grant recipients relevant assets such as logos and social media links upon confirmation of the grant allocation.
- 3.8 Grants are awarded at the discretion of ALCC and we must have the legal power to incur the spending.
- 3.9 In the event of any activity or service funded by a grant from the Council not proceeding, ALCC is entitled to require repayment of some or all of the grant.
- 3.10 In the event that a grant recipient wishes to use the funding for a different purpose than it was awarded for, they must not spend the funding and should submit a new grant application to re-allocate it for the new purpose.
- 3.11 In the event of grant funding being used for purposes other than which the grant was awarded for, ALCC is entitled to require repayment of some or all of the grant.
- 3.12 In the event that a grant recipient is successful in securing funding from a different source for the same project, ALCC may request repayment of some or all of the grant.
- 3.13 If requested, grant recipients must provide a completed Feedback Form or written report detailing how the funding was spent. Council will not consider further grant applications from the organisation if this report is not received, unless in exceptional circumstances.

4. Grants

4.1 Council Grants

- a. For 2026-2027, the Council Grant budget is £28540. This is 5.7% of our overall budget of £503400.
- b. Council Grant requests will be considered at the next scheduled meeting of Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council.

4.2 Loneliness Project Grants

- a. Loneliness Project Grants are awarded specifically to organisations working to combat loneliness and isolation in our communities (Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19).
- b. For 2026-2027, the Loneliness Project Grant budget is £7000. This is 1.4% of our overall budget of £503400.
- c. Loneliness Project Grant requests will be considered at the next meeting of the Leisure & Tourism Committee, which meets as needed a minimum of four times per financial year.

4.3 Christmas Lighting Grants

- a. Christmas Lighting Grants are awarded specifically for the provision of festive lighting displays in our ward areas not covered by our Central Contract; Llanhilleth, Aberbeeg and Cwmtillery. (Local Government Act 1972, s.144).
- b. Christmas Lighting Grants will be paid directly to the supplier upon receipt of a valid invoice.
- c. It is the responsibility of the grant recipient to ensure invoices are submitted to ALCC in a timely manner.
- d. For 2026-2027, the Christmas Lighting Grants budget is £10500. This is 2% of our overall budget of £503400.
- e. Christmas Lighting Grant requests will be considered at the next meeting of the Leisure & Tourism Committee, which meets as needed a minimum of four times per financial year.

4.4 Solar Farm Grants

- a. Each year, Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council receives funding from the management company of Hafod-y-Dafal Solar Farm to award as grants for the community.
- b. For 2026-2027, the Solar Farm Grant budget is £35000. This is 7% of our overall budget of

£503400.

c. Solar Farm Grant requests will be considered once per year, subject to the confirmation of the community grant funding from Hafod-y-Dafal Solar Farm. Requests shall be considered during an extraordinary meeting of the Council.

d. Solar Farm Grants will be awarded to projects with a focus on sustainability and community.

4.5 School Transport Grants

a. School Transport Grants will be awarded to fund transport costs on extra-curricular school trips. ~~for children qualifying for free school meals~~ (Local Government Act 1972, s.137).

b. School Transport Grants will only be awarded to schools and will be paid directly to the supplier upon receipt of a valid invoice.

c. For 2026-2027, the School Transport Grants budget is £10000. This is 2% of our overall budget of £503400.

d. **The maximum grant amount for a School Transport Grant is £1666.**

e. School Transport Grant requests will be considered at the next scheduled meeting of Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council.

4.6 Town in Bloom Community Tubs

a. ALCC contracts Tillery Action For You to maintain a number of floral displays in its wards. ALCC encourages community involvement in this Town in Bloom initiative, which aims to beautify the area and encourage visitors (Well-Being of Future Generations Act, s.40).

b. Local organisations and individuals can apply for Town in Bloom Community Tub funding, which is paid retrospectively on return of valid receipts.

c. The maximum amount of funding is £75 per tub.

d. For 2026-2027, the Town in Bloom Community Tubs budget is £3000. This is 0.6% of our overall budget of £503400.

e. Town in Bloom Community Tub requests will be considered at the next meeting of the Planning, Commerce & Environment (PlaCE) Committee, which meets as needed a minimum of four times per financial year.