

Central Bedfordshire Council

Capital Grant Aid Scheme Criteria

Who can apply?

Voluntary and community groups and non profit making organisations that are based within Central Bedfordshire can apply for capital grants within the following categories

- **Lifestyle Scheme** - Health, Sports Arts and Cultural Projects

This category is aimed at the development, promotion and/or awareness of cultural activities, projects that help to develop children's playgroup activities, general sporting facilities and projects that encourage people to live healthier and more active life styles.

Successful applicants within this category will be awarded up to 25% of the total project cost. This is subject to a maximum award of £10,000.

- **General Community Projects**

This category encourages organisations, in cooperation with their Town/Parish Council or Parish Meeting, to develop projects in order to help make their towns and villages safe and pleasant places in which to live.

Successful applicants within this category will be awarded up to 50% of the total project cost. This is subject to a maximum award of £10,000.

Essential Criteria

All applicants for grant aid will be required to satisfy the following conditions

- Be relevant to one or more of the Council's priorities for 2009/11 which are:
 - Support and caring for an ageing population
 - Educating, protecting and providing opportunities for children and young people
 - Managing growth effectively
 - Creating safer communities

- Promoting healthier lifestyles
- Be able to demonstrate local community need and support.
- Have a clear financial need
- Be non-party political
- Have a constitution that presents no unreasonable membership restrictions
- Be based within Central Bedfordshire or benefit a significant number of Central Bedfordshire residents
- Be properly constituted where appropriate and have a bank or building society account.
- Not have already obtained money from any other Central Bedfordshire Council funding source for the project being applied for.

All applicants will also need to show that

- they have a Child Protection Policy and will be required to provide evidence that they are aware of and are complying with legal requirements regarding Child Protection if they are working with or for young people. Such applicants will be required to confirm that all staff and volunteers working directly with children and young people have passed checks by the Criminal Records Bureau and are deemed appropriate adults.
- their group has an Equal Opportunities Policy or follows equal opportunity procedures in relation to its facilities, management, service delivery and training provision and that the project is accessible to all sections of the community and should not exclude anyone for reasons of gender, race, age, nationality, ethnic origin, religion, disability, sexual orientation or political persuasion.
- their group has an environmental policy. If it does not, we would expect the group to be aware of environmental issues and that the project would not be detrimental to the environment.

Other considerations

- All applicants must be able to demonstrate that they have applied to other funding sources, including the local Town or Parish Council, in relation to the project prior to the submission of an application to this Authority. The Council will look more favourably upon applications where funding from the local Town or Parish Council this has been sought and obtained in connection with the project.
- Grant aid awarded by Central Bedfordshire Council must be acknowledged and publicised at every opportunity.
- Only one 'live' grant aid award will be permitted per applicant in any financial year.
- Grant aid will not be awarded retrospectively or where substantial funding gaps are evident.

All applicants must demonstrate to the Council's satisfaction that

- the project has the support of the local Town or Parish Council or provide satisfactory reasons why the project should proceed in the absence of such support.
- the group has a clear and robust governance structure in place, which will remain throughout delivery of the project.
- there will be ongoing financial viability of any facility delivered, following completion of the project.
- they are aware of their responsibility to account accurately for the cost of the project and have the financial skills to do so.

What we will not fund

- General running costs i.e. projects that can be classed as general repairs and routine maintenance (e.g. painting, decorating or roof repairs)
- Acquisition or leasing of land
- Loan repayments
- Projects that have a political bias
- School based projects unless there is evidence of, or the potential for, substantial community use because there are no other suitable venues available within the area
- Churches or other religious establishments, however if there is evidence of, or the potential for, substantial community use because there is no other suitable venue within the area then we will consider projects that help improve community usage

Timescales

- Meetings are held four times per year to consider applications.
- The deadline date for the return of completed application forms will be not less than one month prior to the date of the meeting.
- Applications received after this date will be referred to the following meeting.