

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

**IMPACT REPORT:
COMMUNITY GRANTS
PROGRAMME 2022-2023**





COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAMME 2022-2023

SUMMARY

Winchester City Council recognises the important role that community and voluntary organisations have in delivering key services to the people and communities of the Winchester district. The council's community grant funding programme is aimed at supporting voluntary and not-for-profit groups and organisations in the District to deliver services and activities that closely align with council priorities.

In 2022-2023 the council awarded 109 community grants totalling £698,753 to charities, not for profit organisations and community groups via eight different grant funds. Demand for grants was higher than in previous years and unfortunately we were unable to award all eligible applications. Projects and activities were supported in all wards across the district.

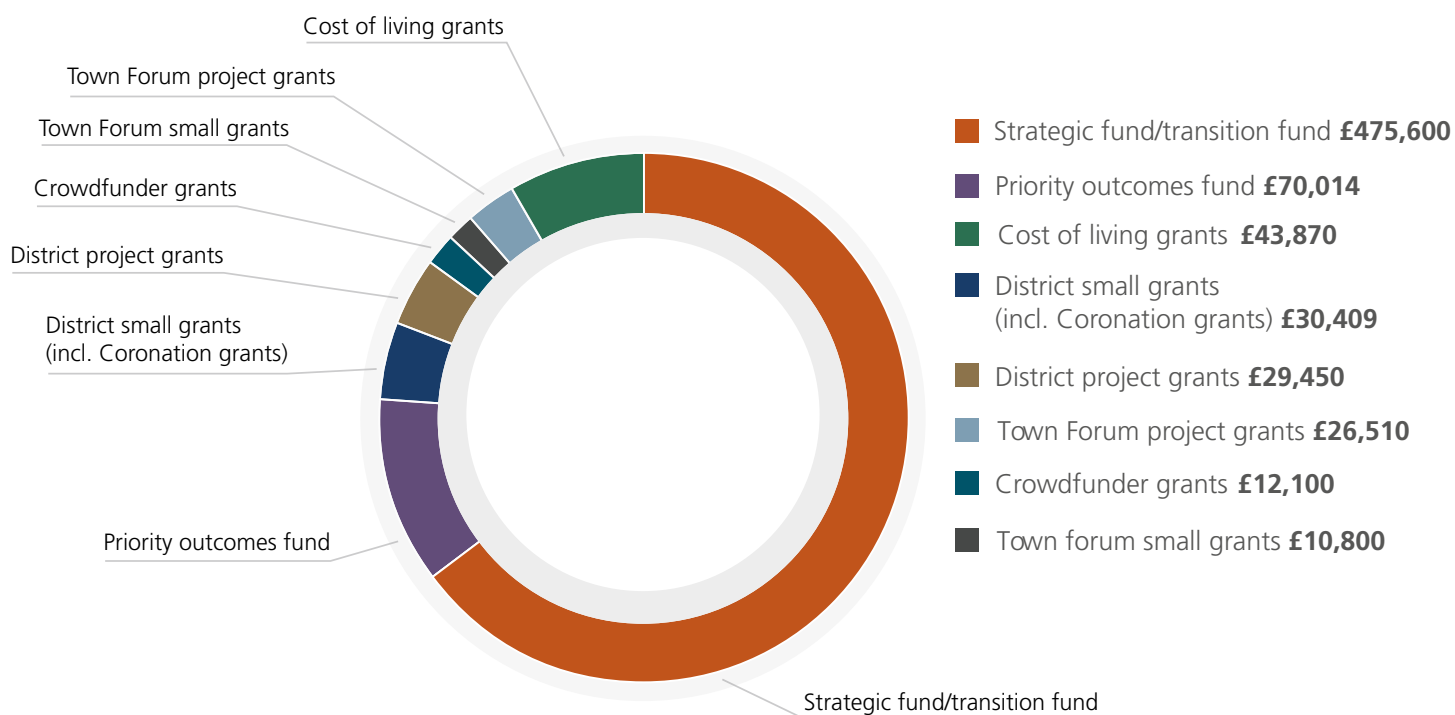
“Winchester district is fortunate to have a flourishing voluntary and community sector and our community grants programme provides funding to organisations whose work supports the council's priorities. We are delighted to share some of the fantastic work carried out by these organisations, whose activities help create cohesive, sustainable and resilient communities across the district.”



Cllr Kathleen Becker
CABINET MEMBER FOR
COMMUNITY AND ENGAGEMENT

Community Grants Summary

Demand for our grants has increased again as activities resumed in the post-Covid recovery period, and the new project grants scheme was particularly popular. A large amount of work was carried out in the year to ensure that residents, communities and organisations, were aware of the funding available and received support to make an application.



Community grants benefitted communities and residents in Winchester district in several ways:

- Enabling better support for our homeless and most vulnerable residents
- Increasing help for residents experiencing difficulties due the rising cost of living
- Improving access to advice services on finances, debt and advice planning
- Providing greater opportunities for people to participate in community life, reducing isolation
- Increasing opportunities for people to improve their physical and mental health
- Facilitating more schemes that reduce the District's carbon footprint

Funding Priorities and Outcomes

Community grants supported activities and services that align with our funding priorities, themes which fit closely with our Council priorities:

Council Priority	Funding Priority and Outcome
Tackling the climate emergency and going greener faster 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability, environmental quality, green technologies
Living well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health • Isolation • Low income • Physical inactivity
Homes for all 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness
Vibrant local economy and pride in place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital application, services and products • Creative and innovative • Business growth
Cost of living 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing access to information, support and guidance • Providing information and support to reduce costs • Increasing social interactions in warm spaces • Overcoming barriers to accessing services such as transport, access to the internet or use of IT equipment • Helping to access essentials such as food or clothing

Funding Priority 1: Sustainability, environmental quality, green technologies

£20,366 of project/small grant funding was awarded to activities supporting the council's ambition to go greener faster. This included solar panels on Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall, an EV charging point for Ooooby who deliver locally grown produce, more energy efficient lighting for Littleton Tennis Club, heat loss projects through Swanmore and South Wonston Parish Councils and local biodiversity projects.

Broadlands Riding for the Disabled:

"In enabling the replacement of our old, inefficient and dangerous electrical lighting with a more efficient, brighter and more environmentally acceptable LED solution, the grant from Winchester City Council has provided better working conditions, and lower utility costs, for our charity. This is of direct benefit to our disabled riders and carriage drivers."



Friends of St Giles Hill Graveyard

Received a small grant which enabled volunteers to clear an area of the graveyard, create gabion seating and plant specialised chalk grassland meadow mix. "The grant from WCC has helped us create valuable sitting areas for the user of St Giles Hill Graveyard and is particularly helpful to those with limited mobility. Also, some areas of the site that were previously difficult to maintain are more accessible."



Solar panels at Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall

Winchester City Council has awarded funding for the installation of solar panels on a village hall's roof. The Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall applied for the funding for solar panels as part of its sustainability efforts and to reduce energy bills. The charity, managed by volunteers, raised more than £10,000 from both Crowdfunder and a grant of £4,000 from Winchester City Council.

The funding was provided from the council's Greener Futures Fund via crowdfunder which was open for applications earlier this year. Cllr Kelsie Learney, Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency, said:

"The city council has made a commitment to go greener faster and we're very pleased to be able to help support businesses and community organisations to not only lower their carbon footprint but save them money too. Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall's solar panel project is an excellent example of how this funding can be used and we're proud to have supported it."

Christopher Langford, Chair of Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall, said:

"The Winchester City Council Greener Futures Fund operated through Crowdfunder has supported us to raise the money to put solar panels on the roof of our village hall this will help with future hire charges to benefit the local community."



Funding Priority 2: Mental health:

£19,565 of project/small grants supported work that included 115 additional counselling sessions at Olive Branch Counselling, a reminiscence project by the Memory Box Foundation for people with dementia, and equine therapy and music therapy sessions for 18 people.

A Priority Outcomes grant to Winchester Youth Counselling enabled them to deliver a total of 2,590 one to one counselling sessions for 177 young people over the year.

Winchester GoLD

Winchester GoLD received a Priority Outcomes core grant for their work with adults with learning disabilities. Their membership has grown to 120 this year with people supported through a variety of activities and advocacy. For example 40 people have been supported over the year through 252 walk and talk sessions which provide one to one contact for social engagement, inclusion, problem sharing and companionship. A graphic illustrating their advocacy work is shown below:



Funding Priority 3: Homelessness

Our core funding supported organisations addressing homelessness and enabled over 500 people to stay safe through this support. The funding also helped prevent more than 80 people from sleeping rough.

Funding Priority 4: Physical inactivity:

Grants of £6,210 were awarded to sports clubs to run activities or purchase equipment, enabling over 350 people to be active. Recipients included Winchester Walking Football, Winchester Athletics, Sparsholt Cricket Club, Littleton Croquet Club and Winchester Castle FC.



Walking Football

Winchester Walking Football Club were awarded a Town Forum small grants to purchase of a set of goals and additional equipment, enabling the club to expand their weekly sessions, making them even more accessible to more people.

Funding Priority 5: Isolation

Over £20,000 of project and small grants were awarded enabling people to be less isolated and more involved in their community. Work supported included a lunch club in Swanmore, a new dance club in Bishops Waltham, new equipment for The Worthy's Community Shed, a community event for the Filipino Association, a film club at West Meon Village Hall and an awareness project with Awaaz Radio. Additionally, 14 grants totalling £12,190 were awarded to support community celebrations and enable people to come together for the King's Coronation in May 2023.

Easton Village Hall & Recreation Ground

Received a small grant towards their community celebration for the King's Coronation. "Without the pump priming grant from Winchester City Council, we may not have been brave enough to risk undertaking the organisation of this Coronation Party, which has been such a success for Easton.



Young Carers

Young Carers received a Priority Outcomes core grant for their work with 102 young carers from across the district in the last 12 months, who engaged in a programme of activities to reduce isolation and help share their experiences and understanding as young carers. "We are very grateful to WCC for its funding and support - it is absolutely crucial to our operations."

Funding Priority 6: Low income

Over £15,000 of project and small grants were awarded to support youth outreach work, a new day time drop-in service for young people not in employment, education or training, a growing Saturday club for children in Weeke, volunteer training for Home-Start Hampshire to support families in the Meon Valley, and a cookery book project to promote healthy eating on a budget.

The core grant to Citizens Advice Winchester along with an additional cost of living grant enabled them to support 5,321 clients with 16,602 advice issues (an increase from 15,118 issues and 4,739 clients last year). Of these 3,575 people were helped with financial and debt advice.

Street Reach:

"The Winchester City Council small grant enabled Street Reach to purchase some modular furniture to provide a welcoming space to deliver various projects for vulnerable young people in Winchester. The charity moved to Unit 12 in October 2022 to an unfurnished space and the grant was used to make the space more young people friendly, with some of our service users even helping to put the furniture together with our staff team and decorating the space."



Funding Priority 7: Creativity and culture

Winchester Poetry Festival were awarded a project grant of £1,875 to improve accessibility including engaging BSL interpreters for several events plus the provision of online events and digital live streaming services for those unable to attend in person.

Play to the Crowd received a Strategic Fund award to support their core work which saw audiences return to performances in higher numbers this year. 55,219 people attended performances at the Theatre Royal and 61,620 people benefitting from Hat Fair and related performances.

Awaaz Radio

received a small grant to raise awareness of their community radio. "Thanks to the support from Winchester City Council, we were able to hire an OB truck (Outside Broadcasting) which allowed us to broadcast Awaaz Radio from Winchester City Centre. We met and engaged with over 1,000 people who passed by the truck. As Winchester currently does not have any ethnic media outlets, this grant has allowed Awaaz to break this barrier and begin a new and important cultural development for Winchester."



Other support for organisations seeking funds

- Delivered a Winchester Funding Fayre in March 2023 with Community First – attended by 72 people from 50 different organisations.



"Thank you for the chat on Wednesday... I hadn't realised Winchester City Council was offering **so much support** - great news!"

- Supported 25 organisations through funding advice drop in events and surgeries, offering advice on making an application to the council and signposting to other sources of support.



"**Your input has been invaluable** and I am researching a number of ideas as to how to raise funds"





Play to the Crowd

“The Charity’s vision is to delight and unite communities and by doing this we **help people** to lead happier and healthier lives and contribute to social cohesion, empathy for others and a sense of **belonging and purpose**.

Play to the Crowd is grateful for the investment made by Winchester City Council from its Strategic Fund. Arts and Culture are such an **important** part of what makes a place desirable to live, work and play in and we simply **could not exist** without this investment.”

Play to the Crowd is an arts and education charity that inspire people to connect with and participate in live performance. The charity runs Theatre Royal Winchester and Hat Fair, along with a community engagement programme called Playmakers. A Strategic Fund grant from Winchester City Council helps the charity to present over 300 performances a year at Theatre Royal Winchester and many more as part of Hat Fair, attracting over 150,000 people a year.

Funding Priority 7: Creativity and culture

Citizens Advice Winchester District

"We're **enormously grateful** to receive a Strategic Fund grant from WCC. This funding is crucial to the survival of our core advice service in Winchester District, and gives us the **stability** we need to seek additional funding to expand and **develop** the range of **services** that we can provide."

Citizens Advice Winchester District is an independent local charity that provide advice for anyone in the district facing challenge in their lives. They provide free, confidential advice to everyone on a range of issues including money, housing, relationships and employment. The charity's core operational costs are supported by a Strategic Fund grant from the council, helping them to deliver support to over 5,000 people a year and last year generating additional income of £1,320,623 for their users.



Funding Priority 6: Low income

Quotes from some of the people we have supported

“Many thanks for your help with this & your coordination of a **very smooth process.**”

“Just wanted to say a big thank you...it’s such wonderful news to have been awarded a grant and will really help add ‘Zing’ to **everyone’s efforts to have been recognised and supported in this way.**”

“It was **SO helpful** to talk to you, and thanks so much for your time this morning.”

“Your input has been **invaluable** and I am researching a number of ideas as to how to **raise funds**”





Winchester
City Council