

FUNDING POLICY AND GRANT CRITERIA GUIDANCE

Introduction

The purpose of the Fund's grants programme is to support projects and partnerships through which Church of England churches or church-linked organisations meet local needs or involve themselves in community development and social action. The Fund is an expression of Goal 6 of the diocesan vision 'Transforming Church, Transforming Lives':

'Together to increase the range, professionalism and spiritual fruitfulness of our partnerships with the local community, to help create a safer, fairer and more sustainable society'

with a particular commitment to the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged.

Principles

The Fund is:

- Designed to support church led community projects.
- particularly interested in building partnerships and strengthening the capacity of churches and church-linked organisations to become involved in and contribute towards their communities.
- independent but works closely with relevant diocesan teams.

The Fund aims to:

- achieve good practice as a grant-making body and to operate through straightforward and clear procedures.
- act as a first funder, which may enable new projects to unlock other funds.

Priorities

- Priority will be given to community projects and partnerships which are church led
- Priority will be given to projects and partnerships which build communities' own capacity to meet local needs, especially in relation to those who are excluded or vulnerable.
- The Fund will continue to restrict its interests to the geographical boundaries of the Diocese of Guildford and projects which benefit residents within the diocese.

Who can apply?

Church of England churches and projects (including ecumenical projects where the Church of England is an active partner) seeking to fulfil or reflect Goal 6 of our Diocesan vision, Transforming Church, Transforming Lives.

Such applicants do not have to be registered with the Charity Commission but do have to have a constitution or set of rules, and a bank account, or should be supported by an organisation that has these.

What kind of projects can apply?

- The Fund will support almost any kind of church-led community project which fulfil its criteria
- The Fund will not normally be the sole funder of a project.
- Funding is not normally given to assist individuals directly, or for capital costs, or for projects which have been completed.
- Applications can be accepted for grants of any size, the average grant paid is in the region of £3,000. Grants are dispensed subject to the availability of funds at the time.

Funding Criteria Checklist

The BGCF will consider your application if it meets most of the following criteria:

Essential Criteria	
1	The sponsoring church should be Church of England and within the Diocese of Guildford
2	The roots of the project should have been initiated by a Church of England church solely, or in partnership with others
3	The project should be directly linked to Goal 6 of TCTL: Cultivating Community Partnerships
4	The project should be viable organisationally and financially
5	The project should be meeting a need which is not being met elsewhere
6	The sponsoring church should demonstrate an ongoing relationship and financial commitment to the project, as reflected in the annual accounts

Desirable Criteria	
1	The project is a named part of the development plan of the sponsoring parish
2	The project features in the sponsoring parish annual report
3	The project has a prayer support plan
4	TCTL Goal 6 is a stated priority within the Church Development Plan of the sponsoring church
5	The sponsoring church reference links directly to these criteria