

## Culture and Recreation Grants – FAQs (Oct 2022)

### 1. What are Culture and Recreation Grants?

They are funded by Ribble Valley Borough Council, aimed at helping voluntary and not for profit organisations in the Borough to ensure residents have the widest opportunity to benefit from projects that help to improve their lives and enrich their experience of living in the Borough. RVBC allocates over £31,000 annually to these funds.

### 2. What are Culture and Recreation Grants for?

Local not for profit organisations are invited to apply for funding to help deliver projects and activities that help provide residents with cultural experiences, either as part of a long-term project or as a one-off programme. Projects and activities must be implemented in the year following the grant, unless the Council grant is being matched by a larger funding body which may take longer to determine their application. However, that detail will need to be made clear on the application form. Organisations bidding for funding need to ensure that their intended project does not duplicate existing projects or activities and does not already benefit from Council support.

### 3. Who is eligible?

Organisations wishing to apply for a grant must be not for profit. Any bids to provide holiday activities for children will also need to show how they complement existing provision. Schools are not eligible for this grant. Applications from private sector organisations will not be considered as it is not acceptable to generate profit from initiatives delivered with this public funding.

### 4. What can be funded with this grant?

Ribble Valley Borough Council must ensure that allocation of the grant budget available is done fairly and transparently to achieve the greatest impact for the sum available. Therefore, evidence of additional funding for a project either from the organisation itself or other sources is going to help applicants, (though it is also understood that sometimes that is not possible, so that is not a sole determinant of the grant decision). Ongoing revenue support is not eligible, (i.e., organisations making the same request year on year for the same activity or project), although a project may run over more than one year. Examples of the types of support that we could fund include, but are not limited to:

- Funding to enable an existing group to develop new members through an enhanced facility.
- Funding to enable a new support group to become established. Based on an identified need in a local community.
- A contribution towards additional activities/staffing to support an organisation to deliver clear community benefits.
- Funding to organisations to help a new project to commence.

5. Where will programmes be funded?

We would like to reach as many residents as possible with this funding and therefore, applications from all areas in Ribble Valley will be considered. There is no quota system applied to the grants. They are evaluated on merit and past success should not be considered an indicator of likely success in any given year.

6. Will applicants require match funding?

The Council expects that at least 50% of the project cost will be funded by the applicant or other sources. In exceptional cases the grants panel may award a higher percentage of funding to a project, however this is rare.

Grants are normally paid on receipt of expenditure.

7. How do I apply?

Applications should be made using the online grant application form published on the website: [https://www.ribbonvalley.gov.uk/info/200289/people\\_and\\_communities/1612/grants](https://www.ribbonvalley.gov.uk/info/200289/people_and_communities/1612/grants). The application form seeks information about the grant applicant, the amount of funding being requested, including details of how it meets the eligibility criteria, and details of who it is intended should benefit from the services delivered because of any grant funding.

8. How will the grant be evaluated?

Each grant application will be evaluated by a panel of Borough Councillors (which is then submitted to the Councils' Community Services Committee) and a decision made based on the extent that:

- The grant meets the eligibility criteria.
- It is clear who and how many beneficiaries there will be because of the funding.
- The Council can be confident of delivery within the timescales
- The grant offers value for money. Based on this evaluation, the panel may decide to award the total grant sum requested or a partial amount of the total grant requested, with applicants expected to provide at least 50% of the project cost from their own or other sources.
- Feedback can be provided for unsuccessful applications, however there is no right of appeal for grant decisions made.

9. How long will it take to find out if I have been successful with my application?

Following submission of a completed grant application, we aim to evaluate and confirm whether your application has been successful by the middle of March following submission.

Funding will be released to successful organisations once approved by the Community Services Committee in March each year.

10. What reporting and management information will you need from me if I am successful?

Applicants will need to provide information in their grant application detailing how much grant funding being sought, and of the total what amount is being provide from other sources. We

will require evidence that the grant award has been use for the intended purpose and that the Council has been referenced in any media material issued either publicly or to the recipients or the members of the organisation itself. Any unspent grant funding by 31 March of the year following that in which the grant as awarded will be reclaimed unless approval has been sought from the Council and a carry forward agreed. If Ribble Valley Borough Council has any grounds for suspecting financial irregularity in the use of any grant paid under this scheme, an investigation will take place. For these purposes 'financial irregularity' includes fraud or other impropriety, mismanagement, and the use of grant for purposes other than those for which it was provided.