

Meeting: Cabinet

Date: 9 June 2025

Wards affected: All

Report Title: Community Grant Fund Policy 2025/2026

When does the decision need to be implemented? Immediately following call-in period

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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 Torbay Council is introducing a Community Grant Fund for 2025 to further support the voluntary and community sector organisations because we believe that a vibrant Third Sector is vital to our community.
- 1.2 The Council is committed to supporting organisations that deliver projects which have a beneficial impact on the local community and support one or more of the Council's strategic themes from the Torbay Community and Corporate Plan. This grant fund aims to further enable work in Torbay's deprived areas outside of Torquay, which is benefiting from other significant place-based funding.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1 The proposals in this report help us to deliver the Council's ambition by providing further funding to the voluntary and community sector organisations in support of our long-term objectives for the Bay.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

1. That the Community Grant Fund Policy 2025/2026 set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report be approved and opened to applications in accordance with the policy.

Appendix

Appendix 1: Community Grant Fund Policy 2025/2026, including the Grant Application Form

Background Documents

None

Supporting Information

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Torbay Council is introducing a Community Grant Fund for 2025/2026 to further support the voluntary and community sector organisations because we believe that a vibrant Third Sector is vital to our community.
- 1.2 The Council is committed to supporting organisations that deliver projects which have a beneficial impact on the local community and support one or more of the Council's strategic themes from the Torbay Community and Corporate Plan. This grant fund aims to further enable work in Torbay's deprived areas outside of Torquay, which is benefiting from other significant place-based funding.

2. Options under consideration

- 2.1 This fund was considered in the approval of the budget for 2025/2026. The option to not spend this allocation has been discounted as it does not meet the aims and objectives.

3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

- 3.1 This fund is limited to the current budget year; applications will be assessed against the outcomes in our Community and Corporate Plan to ensure that the allocations further the agreed objectives contain therein.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 Upon approval of any grant fund, the Council will enter into a grant agreement with the relevant organisation to ensure that the grant payments are managed appropriately.

5. Engagement and Consultation

- 5.1 This fund was included as part of the budget consultation for 2025/2026. At the Council Meeting of 27 Feb 2025, the Chief Finance Officer 2025/2026 Budget Update Report included the following information on this allocation in relation to the receipt of the Recovery Grant:

The receipt of circa £2m 'Recovery Grant' for 2025/26 has been allocated based on a national formula whereby Councils with large pockets of deprivation have received larger sums. Several specific allocations within this budget update paper will help address deprivation issues including funding for:

· Affordable housing;

- *Child care preventative measures;*
- *Youth Justice and Family Assessment Resource Centre;*
- *Play Parks and*
- *Sport and Leisure*

In addition to this, £200k one-off funding is allocated to enable further targeted support for local communities. This could be in the form of a 'Community Grant Fund' with options for facilitating applications / payments being considered alongside existing grant funding arrangements such as the Household Support and Lottery Funds.

£18k on-going funding is also being added to Community Ward budgets increasing the amount of spend available for each Councillor to £2,500 per annum.

6. Purchasing or Hiring of Goods and/or Services

- 6.1 Not applicable

7. Tackling Climate Change

- 7.1 Grant applications will be assessed using the strategic themes in the Community and Corporate Plan, including those relating to tackling climate change.

8. Associated Risks

- 8.1 Entering into funding agreements with third parties carries inherent risk. Such risk is mitigated through the application process and due diligence. Details on what the Council require from applicants to mitigate financial and delivery risk can be found in the application form included at Appendix 1.

9. Equality Impact Assessment

Protected characteristics under the Equality Act and groups with increased vulnerability	Data and insight	Equality considerations (including any adverse impacts)	Mitigation activities	Responsible department and timeframe for implementing mitigation activities
Age	<p>18 per cent of Torbay residents are under 18 years old.</p> <p>55 per cent of Torbay residents are aged between 18 to 64 years old.</p> <p>27 per cent of Torbay residents are aged 65 and older.</p>	<p>The Community Grant Fund 25/26 will help to ensure that the organisation meets its corporate vision and aims which includes supporting Torbay's older and younger residents.</p> <p>We know that older people face increased fragility as they age and may require additional support to live independently. We also know that young people benefit from having access to good quality education and skills development opportunities and a healthy home environment.</p>	Not applicable	Not applicable

Protected characteristics under the Equality Act and groups with increased vulnerability	Data and insight	Equality considerations (including any adverse impacts)	Mitigation activities	Responsible department and timeframe for implementing mitigation activities
		<p>It is not anticipated that any adverse impacts will be caused by the implementation of the Fund. However, due to the unknown detail of the applications further impact assessments may be required for approved projects.</p>		
Carers	<p>At the time of the 2021 census there were 14,900 unpaid carers in Torbay. 5,185 of these provided 50 hours or more of care.</p>	<p>The Community Grant Fund 25/26 will help to ensure that the organisation meets its corporate vision and aims which includes supporting Torbay's residents who are carers.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that any adverse impacts will be caused by the implementation of the Fund. However, due to the unknown detail of the applications further impact</p>	Not applicable	Not applicable

Protected characteristics under the Equality Act and groups with increased vulnerability	Data and insight	Equality considerations (including any adverse impacts)	Mitigation activities	Responsible department and timeframe for implementing mitigation activities
		assessments may be required for approved projects.		
Disability	In the 2021 Census, 23.8% of Torbay residents answered that their day-to-day activities were limited a little or a lot by a physical or mental health condition or illness.	<p>The Community Grant Fund 25/26 will help to ensure that the organisation meets its corporate vision and aims which includes supporting Torbay's most vulnerable residents. This includes people with disabilities as we recognise that they face additional barriers when accessing buildings and participating in public life. The Fund may provide opportunities to enhance accessibility.</p> <p>To support people with disabilities, reasonable adjustments are available throughout the Community Grant Fund application process to support</p>	Not applicable	Not applicable

Protected characteristics under the Equality Act and groups with increased vulnerability	Data and insight	Equality considerations (including any adverse impacts)	Mitigation activities	Responsible department and timeframe for implementing mitigation activities
		<p>people with disabilities with applying for the Fund.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that any adverse impacts will be caused by the implementation of the Fund. However, due to the unknown detail of the applications further impact assessments may be required for approved projects.</p>		
Gender reassignment	In the 2021 Census, 0.4% of Torbay's community answered that their gender identity was not the same as their sex registered at birth. This proportion is similar to the Southwest and is lower than England.	<p>The Community Grant Fund 25/26 will help to ensure that the organisation meets its corporate vision and aims which includes supporting Torbay's most vulnerable residents.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that any adverse impacts will be caused by the</p>	Not applicable	Not applicable

Protected characteristics under the Equality Act and groups with increased vulnerability	Data and insight	Equality considerations (including any adverse impacts)	Mitigation activities	Responsible department and timeframe for implementing mitigation activities
		<p>implementation of the Fund.</p> <p>However, due to the unknown detail of the applications further impact assessments may be required for approved projects.</p>		
Marriage and civil partnership	<p>Of those Torbay residents aged 16 and over at the time of 2021 Census, 44.2% of people were married or in a registered civil partnership.</p>	<p>The Community Grant Fund 25/26 will help to ensure that the organisation meets its corporate vision and aims which includes supporting Torbay's most vulnerable residents.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that any adverse impacts will be caused by the implementation of the Fund.</p> <p>However, due to the unknown detail of the applications further impact assessments may be required for approved projects.</p>	Not applicable	Not applicable

Protected characteristics under the Equality Act and groups with increased vulnerability	Data and insight	Equality considerations (including any adverse impacts)	Mitigation activities	Responsible department and timeframe for implementing mitigation activities
Pregnancy and maternity	Over the period 2010 to 2021, the rate of live births (as a proportion of females aged 15 to 44) has been slightly but significantly higher in Torbay (average of 63.7 per 1,000) than England (60.2) and the South West (58.4). There has been a notable fall in the numbers of live births since the middle of the last decade across all geographical areas.	<p>The Community Grant Fund 25/26 will help to ensure that the organisation meets its corporate vision and aims which includes supporting Torbay's most vulnerable residents.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that any adverse impacts will be caused by the implementation of the Fund. However, due to the unknown detail of the applications further impact assessments may be required for approved projects.</p>	Not applicable	Not applicable
Race	In the 2021 Census, 96.1% of Torbay residents described their ethnicity as white. This is a higher proportion than the South	The Community Grant Fund 25/26 will help to ensure that the organisation meets its corporate vision and aims which includes supporting Torbay's most vulnerable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Protected characteristics under the Equality Act and groups with increased vulnerability	Data and insight	Equality considerations (including any adverse impacts)	Mitigation activities	Responsible department and timeframe for implementing mitigation activities
	West and England. Black, Asian and minority ethnic individuals are more likely to live in areas of Torbay classified as being amongst the 20% most deprived areas in England.	<p>residents and promoting equality and community cohesion.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that any adverse impacts will be caused by the implementation of the Fund. However, due to the unknown detail of the applications further impact assessments may be required for approved projects.</p>		
Religion and belief	64.8% of Torbay residents who stated that they have a religion in the 2021 census.	The Community Grant Fund 25/26 will help to ensure that the organisation meets its corporate vision and aims which includes supporting Torbay's most vulnerable residents and promoting equality and community cohesion.	Not applicable	Not applicable

Protected characteristics under the Equality Act and groups with increased vulnerability	Data and insight	Equality considerations (including any adverse impacts)	Mitigation activities	Responsible department and timeframe for implementing mitigation activities
		<p>It is not anticipated that any adverse impacts will be caused by the implementation of the Fund. However, due to the unknown detail of the applications further impact assessments may be required for approved projects.</p>		
Sex	51.3% of Torbay's population are female and 48.7% are male	<p>The Community Grant Fund 25/26 will help to ensure that the organisation meets its corporate vision and aims which includes supporting Torbay's most vulnerable residents.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that any adverse impacts will be caused by the implementation of the Fund. However, due to the unknown detail of the applications further impact</p>	Not applicable	Not applicable

Protected characteristics under the Equality Act and groups with increased vulnerability	Data and insight	Equality considerations (including any adverse impacts)	Mitigation activities	Responsible department and timeframe for implementing mitigation activities
		assessments may be required for approved projects.		
Sexual orientation	In the 2021 Census, 3.4% of those in Torbay aged over 16 identified their sexuality as either Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or, used another term to describe their sexual orientation.	<p>The Community Grant Fund 25/26 will help to ensure that the organisation meets its corporate vision and aims which includes supporting Torbay's most vulnerable residents.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that any adverse impacts will be caused by the implementation of the Fund. However, due to the unknown detail of the applications further impact assessments may be required for approved projects.</p>	Not applicable	Not applicable
Veterans	In 2021, 3.8% of residents in England reported that	The Community Grant Fund 25/26 will help to ensure that the	Not applicable	Not applicable

Protected characteristics under the Equality Act and groups with increased vulnerability	Data and insight	Equality considerations (including any adverse impacts)	Mitigation activities	Responsible department and timeframe for implementing mitigation activities
	they had previously served in the UK armed forces. In Torbay, 5.9 per cent of the population have previously serviced in the UK armed forces.	<p>organisation meets its corporate vision and aims which includes supporting Torbay's most vulnerable residents.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that any adverse impacts will be caused by the implementation of the Fund. However, due to the unknown detail of the applications further impact assessments may be required for approved projects.</p>		
Additional considerations				
Socio-economic impacts (Including impacts on child poverty and deprivation)		The Community Grant Fund 25/26 will help to ensure that the organisation meets its corporate vision and aims which includes supporting Torbay's most vulnerable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Protected characteristics under the Equality Act and groups with increased vulnerability	Data and insight	Equality considerations (including any adverse impacts)	Mitigation activities	Responsible department and timeframe for implementing mitigation activities
		<p>residents including those from disadvantaged backgrounds.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that any adverse impacts will be caused by the implementation of the Fund. However, due to the unknown detail of the applications further impact assessments may be required for approved projects.</p>		
Public Health impacts (Including impacts on the general health of the population of Torbay)		<p>The Community Grant Fund 25/26 will help to ensure that the organisation meets its corporate vision and aims which will contribute to positive public health outcomes.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that any adverse impacts will be caused by the implementation of the Fund.</p>	Not applicable	Not applicable

Protected characteristics under the Equality Act and groups with increased vulnerability	Data and insight	Equality considerations (including any adverse impacts)	Mitigation activities	Responsible department and timeframe for implementing mitigation activities
		However, due to the unknown detail of the applications further impact assessments may be required for approved projects.		
Human Rights impacts		<p>The Community Grant Fund 25/26 will help to ensure that the organisation meets its corporate vision and aims which includes supporting Torbay's most vulnerable residents. It will operate in accordance with the Human Rights Act despite an eligibility criteria which limits some activity e.g. That of a political nature.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that any adverse impacts will be caused by the implementation of the Fund.</p> <p>However, due to the unknown detail</p>	Not applicable	Not applicable

Protected characteristics under the Equality Act and groups with increased vulnerability	Data and insight	Equality considerations (including any adverse impacts)	Mitigation activities	Responsible department and timeframe for implementing mitigation activities
		of the applications further impact assessments may be required for approved projects.		
Child Friendly	Torbay Council is a Child Friendly Council and all staff and Councillors are Corporate Parents and have a responsibility towards cared for and care experienced children and young people.	<p>The Community Grant Fund 25/26 will help to ensure that the organisation meets its corporate vision and aims which includes supporting Torbay's young residents.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that any adverse impacts will be caused by the implementation of the Fund. However, due to the unknown detail of the applications further impact assessments may be required for approved projects.</p>	Not applicable	Not applicable

10. Cumulative Council Impact

- 10.1 The Community Grant Fund 25/26 will help to ensure that the organisation meets its corporate vision and aims which includes supporting the broad spectrum of Torbay's residents. It is therefore, anticipated that the cumulative council impact will be positive.

11. Cumulative Community Impact

- 11.1 The Community Grant Fund 25/26 will help to ensure that the organisation meets its corporate vision and aims which includes supporting the broad spectrum of Torbay's residents. It is therefore, anticipated that the cumulative community impact will be positive.