



NORTH LEVERTON WITH HABLESTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Section 137 Policy

Document Control	
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Grants Background

The Local Government Act 1972 section 137 makes provision for Parish Councils to provide financial support, up to a fixed amount, for the benefit of residents of the Parish. The total annual amount available to a Parish for this purpose is prescribed by Government and is a 'resident rate' times the number of residents on the Parish Electoral roll. The resident rate is linked to the Retail Price Index.

Objective

The council shall, as far as is reasonably practical, ensure that any grants it awards is for the greater benefit of its residents and the community.

1. Limit

The Clerk shall keep the Council informed of the current annual S137 limit.

2. Grant Application Requirements

- i. Applications for grants may be made at any time throughout the year. They shall not be considered unless the requests are provided in writing stating clearly the amount required and the purpose of the grant.
- ii. Applications for grants can only be considered from organisations whose work will benefit the Parish and its residents.
- iii. Applications from individuals cannot be considered, nor can applications where the grant would benefit an individual.
- iv. Applications for retrospective grants, where a project has already been completed, will not be considered.
- v. The Council will only consider one grant application per organisation per financial year.
- vi. Grant applications in excess of £250 must, if available, provide financial statements in support of the application.

3. Grant Allocation

- i. The total sum available for all grants varies year upon year but is in the order of £200.

- ii. The council shall not consider a single grant application which exceeds £100 unless there are extenuating circumstances and all other approved grant applications are satisfied.
- iii. The minimum grant amount that can be applied for is £25.

4. Grant Fund Shortfall

Other than in exceptional circumstances the council shall not permit the value of all grant applications exceeds the council's available budget.

In such circumstances the council may, providing they considers any applications to be of equal merit, grant such applications (taking money from council reserves) providing that the sum does not;

- exceed the statutory amount prescribed by Central Government
- place the council's accounts in distress as advised by their Proper Officer

5. Ongoing Grants

- i. Repeat applications for grants year upon year will not normally be considered unless there are exceptional circumstances which the Council considers an appropriate use of its grant fund.
- ii. Such grants shall not exceed two years

6. Grant Spend

- i. A recipient of a grant in excess of £25 must provide evidence of how the grant was spent in the form of a written report, supported by financial evidence where available. The report must be received by the Clerk within 12 months of receipt of the grant. The report will become a document available to public inspection under the provisions of Section 228 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).
- ii. A copy of this policy will be given to all successful grant applicants.