



Lowestoft Town Council Grant Awarding Policy

1.0 General Information for Applicants

- 1.1 Lowestoft Town Council has statutory powers to make funds available to local organisations for the overall benefit of Lowestoft and its residents. These provide an option (not an obligation) to make grants and Lowestoft Town Council has adopted this policy to help guide relevant decisions. Any groups or organisations wishing to apply for a grant should read this policy carefully.
- 1.2 In addition to outlining Lowestoft Town Council's guidelines for awarding grants, this document also formalises the application process to provide clarity, openness and fairness. The Town Council reserves the right to deviate from this policy where it considers it appropriate to do so.
- 1.3 It is Lowestoft Town Council's intention to support initiatives from local community groups and organisations and it has set an annual budget for this. Applications will be considered every three months by the Finance and Governance Committee. The annual budget set is the maximum budgeted total amount for all grants and does not represent an obligation by the Town Council to spend this money on grants.
- 1.4 The size of any grant awarded is at the discretion of the Town Council, but would not normally exceed £2,000 in any one application.
- 1.5 Where the application provides a breakdown of costs, a quotation or other supporting evidence must be provided in respect of the sum being applied for.

2.0 Who is Eligible?

- 2.1 The following organisations are eligible to apply:
- Lowestoft-based charities, clubs, associations, groups or other organisations whose activities benefit all or some of the Lowestoft community.
 - Local branches of regional or national charities, clubs, associations, groups or other organisations whose activities benefit all or some of the Lowestoft community.

3.0 Who is not Eligible?

- 3.1 Applications will normally be rejected:
- From statutory bodies or for statutory purposes normally funded through the taxpayer or central government funding.
 - From individuals, private businesses and "for profit" commercial organisations or for projects which improve or benefit privately owned land or property.
 - From regional and national organisations unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the grant would be used specifically for Lowestoft residents.
 - From organisations with political or religious affiliations unless for a specific non-discriminatory purpose offered without exclusivity to a particular political group or religion.
 - From organisations or in connection with projects which negatively discriminate.

4.0 What Can Be Funded?

- 4.1 It is expected that the project will:
- In some significant way make Lowestoft a better place to live, work or play.
 - Provide a long lasting and sustainable benefit to all or part of Lowestoft.
 - Improve the social, environmental and/or economic profile of Lowestoft.



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- d. Add value and help make projects self-sustaining

5.0 What Is Unlikely to be Funded?

5.1 It is unlikely that projects will be considered where:

- a. They simply replace existing facilities with no significant improvement.
- b. There is no clear business or project plan.
- c. On larger budget projects with a budget in excess of £2,000, where there is a shortfall with limited or no other contributory funding, unless a decision is required to secure match funding.
- d. The project or applicant has been previously funded and there has been a failure to comply with the conditions of grants detailed below.
- e. Expenditure on general business overheads (running costs).

6.0 Conditions of Grant

6.1 It is a condition of acceptance of a grant that:

- a. Lowestoft Town Council support must be acknowledged appropriately on all related publicity and promotional material including posters, advertisements, press releases and leaflets.
- b. Grants awarded can only be used for the purpose for which they were given and in compliance with any conditions applied.
- c. Grants must not be distributed to any other organisation, other than as agreed as part of the grant award.
- d. The outcome and impact of the grant must be reported to the Council within six months' of the grant being made. The Council reserves the right to specify the form, content and any different timescale for reporting.

7.0 What factors will be considered as part of the decision making?

7.1 The following are among those matters which are likely to be taken into account:

- a. General eligibility
- b. Organisational credibility
- c. Impact on identified local need
- d. Community support
- e. Value for money
- f. Any match-funding and other efforts to self-fund the project
- g. Social, environmental or economic impact
- h. Community involvement
- i. Likely effectiveness
- j. Soundness of the business or project plan
- k. Added value and Sustainability

7.2 For grant applications made by sports clubs, evidence will need to be provided for one or more of the following:

- a. How the club has used its income from the preceding year to increase its membership
- b. How the club has used its income from the preceding year to make improvements to its facilities
- c. How the club has maintained its facilities

8.0 When Will Decisions Be Made?

8.1 Applications will be considered by the Finance and Governance Committee every three months (at its meetings in March, June, September and December). The Committee reserves the right to consider urgent



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or time sensitive applications in the interim. If you feel that your application requires consideration outside of the regular three-monthly cycle please ensure this is clearly indicated on your application form. Please refer to Lowestoft Town Council's website (www.lowestofttowncouncil.gov.uk) for the meeting schedules or contact the office on 0330 053 6019/ admin@lowestofttowncouncil.gov.uk for details.

Revisions	
Date	Amendment
February 2021	Amendment made to reflect Council's decision that applications will be considered quarterly, rather than twice per year (with effect from the Annual Meeting in May 2021).
June 2021	Removed the sentence ' <i>For sports clubs, a grant fund is available equivalent to the sum Lowestoft Town Council receives via income from the clubs.</i> ' from point 1.3, as it is not applicable for the 2021 – 2022 year.
June 2021	Amended the amount specified at point 1.3 from £500 to £2,000.
June 2021	Amended point 8.1 to reflect that applications will be considered monthly rather than quarterly.
July 2021	Added point 1.5 to specify that a quotation or supporting evidence must be provided where there is a breakdown of costs.
November 2021	Amended point 1.3 to reflect that applications are now considered monthly rather than quarterly. Also removed reference to sports clubs as not applicable under the fee waiver.
November 2021	At point 5.1d added 'unless a decision is required to secure match funding'.
November 2021	At points 7.2a and 7.2b replaced references to specific years to 'the preceding year'.
May 2022	Point 5a removed (There is a large shortfall in the funding required to complete the project). 'On larger budget projects with a budget in excess of £2,000, where there is a shortfall' added at point 5c. Point 5d removed (The project or applicant has been provided with a Council grant recently, especially in one or more of the previous three years). Words 'or equivalent' added at sections a and b of the application form.
October 2022	Amended point 1.3 and 8.1 to reflect the decision for applications to be considered every three months, rather than monthly.



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Grant Application Form

Please complete this form and send it with:

- a. Your Equality Policy, or equivalent (and Safeguarding Policy if project relates to young and/or vulnerable people)
- b. Your constitution or equivalent

to *The Town Clerk, Lowestoft Town Council, First Floor, Hamilton House, Battery Green Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 1DE* or e-mail admin@lowestofttowncouncil.gov.uk

About your organisation. Insert 'yes' or 'no' and/or provide additional information where relevant	
Name of organisation	First Light Festival CIC
Name of account to which payment to be made (explain if not your organisation's name)	First Light Festival CIC
What does your organisation do? (100 words max)	First Light Festival C.I.C. produces First Light Festival, a free access, place-making festival inspired by Lowestoft's position as the UK's most easterly place; since 2022 FLF also manages the East Point Pavilion. Our festival programme is an accessible mix of high-quality multi-arts and science activities, working with many local partners as well as regional and national ones. The festival incorporates projects with local schools, colleges and many community groups. It offers a showcase for local makers and producers. Our New Dawn and PlayBreak programmes offer performance platforms for young and local musicians and support year-round development opportunities.
What relevant local area does your organisation cover?	First Light Festival C.I.C works across Lowestoft, with a particular focus on Kirkley & Pakefield where the festival takes place.
Who are the main beneficiaries of your work?	Lowestoft residents. Lowestoft schools and community groups, with a particular focus on those who for social and economic reasons do not have regular access to cultural events Local tourism and hospitality businesses
Are you a charity? If yes, describe the type of charity	No
If registered, what is the charity number?	



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Not-for-profit? If no, describe the organisation	Yes
Organisation income (last complete financial year)	£732,807
Organisation expenditure (last complete financial year)	£712,239
Contact details	
Name	REDACTED
Address	East Point Pavilion, Royal Plain, Lowestoft, NR33 0AP
Telephone number/s	REDACTED
E-mail	REDACTED
Position within organisation	CEO
Explain how you are authorised to make this application on behalf of the organisation	I am authorised by the First Light Festival CIC board of directors to make applications on behalf of the organisation.
About your project	
Please provide details of the project and how the project will benefit the people of Lowestoft (250 words max).	<p>This year First Light Festival takes place on 22nd and 23rd June. The festival will bring zones of free music, wellbeing, poetry, dance, visual art, environmental activity with a theme around the Cardinal Points, to emphasise Lowestoft's most easterly location.</p> <p>Working with the Marina Theatre Samba band, The Players and local community groups, with lead-in schools and community workshops, the festival parade project 'Resonance!' will be a vibrant procession of puppets and music. Lowestoft Library and Suffolk Libraries will curate the children's zone with storytelling and performance.</p>



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	<p>Our 'House of the Rising Sun' project works with Lowestoft musicians, local primary schools and the Rabble Chorus, and responds to the local folklore that the song originated in Lowestoft... creating new local lyrics to produce a large scale performance that will open the festival.</p> <p>We are running a sponsored, dawn walk with St Elizabeth East Coast Hospice and welcoming local charities to have stalls on the Promenade.</p> <p>Building on our Planet Positive and Power Positive zones we are working with Climate UEA (University of East Anglia) for a performance of 'Phoenix, Dodo, Butterfly' – a thought piece of drama and discussion around environmental themes.</p> <p>We will have a vibrant Makers Market supporting and showcasing local makers and producers alongside a food and drink offer that supports local traders.</p> <p>We will recruit 150+ local volunteers to take part and enjoy being part of the festival team, to learn new skills, make new friends and be part of a joyful, community focused, free access festival.</p>
Total cost of project	Total cost of the project is £533,779
Breakdown of cost	Please see attached spreadsheet
Grant requested from Lowestoft Town Council	£5000
What specifically would the grant from the Council fund?	<p>The grant would fund activity in Kensington Gardens – a magnet for families in the beautifully planted gardens with stalls and music – supporting its eclectic mix of local and regional music groups and musicians with a special focus on community music currently including the Lowestoft Signing Choir, Seagull Community Singing Group (inc Singing for wellbeing and lung health members) and the Tapestry Choir (Oulton Broad). Also, musicians from the FLF PlayBreak 'apply to play' programme for performers 25years and above, who live or gig in Lowestoft. The programme is selected by local musicians Richard Barret of the Coronation Kings and Curtis High of The Manifest and currently 89 musicians/performers have applied.</p> <p>The grant will support a percentage of performers fees and community group expenses, based on industry rates; the technical</p>



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	equipment for the stage; amplification and other sound tech; lighting and event manager costs.
Have any funds been requested/agreed from other sources? Provide details	Yes, funds have been secured via Arts Council England (£220K); East Suffolk Council (£170K), Suffolk County Council (£20K), LCEP (£1.5K). Grants applications and sponsorship confirmed and pending (£71,673); earned income (£45,606) .
When are the funds required?	Ideally March/April
Project start date	March 2024
Project completion date	October 2024
Compliance Agreements (insert 'YES' to indicate your agreement to the questions below. If you do not intend to comply, insert 'NO'.)	
Do you authorise us to hold and use information that you have provided, for the purpose of processing and monitoring this grant application? You can ask us for details of the information we use for this purpose at any time.	YES
Do you acknowledge that if you provide false or misleading information in your application or at any point in the life of any grant, we will provide information to relevant enforcement agencies and take any action to recover any funds and damages, as we deem appropriate?	YES
Do you authorise us to use information about your project and organisation as part of our publicity and promotion of our grants programme?	YES
Do you agree to acknowledge the Council appropriately on all of your related publicity and promotional material including posters, advertisements, press releases and leaflets?	YES
Do you agree not to distribute funds granted to any other organisation, other than as agreed as part of the grant award?	YES
Do you agree to report the outcome and impact of the grant to the Council as required in the Council's Grant Awarding Policy?	YES
Do you agree that any grant awarded will only be used for the purpose for which it was given and in compliance with any conditions applied?	YES

Signed.....REDACTED..... Date....23rd January 2024

(Signatory must be authorised to act on behalf of the organisation and, if different from the main contact listed above, this should be explained.