

Have your say on proposed approaches for awarding community and voluntary sector grants in Lewes district

Lewes District Council is seeking the views of key stakeholders over a set of proposed approaches to awarding grants to the voluntary sector in the district.

The council highly values the contributions that community and voluntary groups play in delivering services to our residents. The Council's current policy is to offer grant funding to a small number of organisations which provide essential services to our residents, particularly those experiencing hardship or disadvantage, or which play a key role providing infrastructure services to enable and support a thriving community and voluntary sector in the District. The current policy can be found [here](#).

From 18 September to 11 December we are inviting all community and voluntary sector organisations in the district to express their preferences from a set of four possible options. We would also like to know if you have suggestions for how else we could approach the awarding of these grants.

Question 1

Please read the following options and then: tell us your order of preference with 1 being your most preferred option.

a) Maintain the status quo

Currently, Lewes District Council awards grants annually to four local organisations. These are: Action in Rural Sussex Citizens Advice, 3VA, Lewes District Churches Homelink and Sussex Community Development Association (for the Sompriti project). These grants are approved in three year cycles. This gives projects some security to develop their services.

Order of preference for this option: 1 / 2 / 3 / 4

b) A combination of core grants and small grants

Continue to award a portion of our budget as 'major grants' to support core voluntary sector services, in three year cycles, and introduce a competitive annual bidding (application) process for 'small grants', from the remainder of the budget. The criteria for awarding small grants could be set each year and respond to local need.

Order of preference for this option: 1 / 2 / 3 / 4

c) Award all grants annually

Each year through a competitive bidding process as described above.
Options b) and c) will impact on staff resources, and would mean that some funds will need to be identified from the grants budget to support the extra work.

Order of preference for this option: 1 / 2 / 3 / 4

d) Award all grants tri-annually

Every three years through a competitive bidding process as described in b) above. This would provide some security to grant recipients and wouldn't impact too much on council resources.

Order of preference for this option: 1 / 2 / 3 / 4

Question 2

If you have any comments to support your preferences or if you have any alternative suggestions, please tell us below:

MAX 100 words

Question 3

Please tell us the name of the group or organisation on behalf of which you are responding:

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Question 4

Please provide your name, role and preferred contact details below:

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