

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

GRANTS PROGRAMME PROSPECTUS

2015 - 2019

Introduction

Oxford City Council has traditionally funded voluntary and community groups, as part of building stronger and more inclusive communities in our city.

This prospectus sets out which activities Oxford City Council will fund in the financial years 2014-18, both through commissioning and through open bidding. Organisations, which have been commissioned to provide a service by the Council, should not apply for additional funding from the open bidding pot for the same project. They may, however, apply through open bidding for another separate project.

Oxford City Council wishes to prioritise funding for activities that contribute to the corporate priorities of the city council, as set out below.

- A vibrant, sustainable economy
- Meeting housing needs
- Strong, active communities
- Cleaner, greener Oxford

It particularly welcomes applications from projects that provide added value to existing or new provision, through joint commissioning or partnership working. The council does not wish to replace or duplicate other organisations' responsibilities or funding.

For clarity, Oxford City Council will NOT fund:

- Party political promotion or activities
- Worship or activities that promote the views of a religious organisation or group. (Although religious groups may apply for non-religious activities. Please note you will need to demonstrate in your application that the project or activity you are applying for funding for does not promote a religious view in any way)
- Activities that fall outside of the financial year for which the current programme is running, contact the grants team if unsure (grants@oxford.gov.uk) .
- Retrospective funding. Project or activity costs will not be funded if the activity/event or project has taken place or commenced prior to the closing date of the funding programme and/or prior to the approval of any funding.
- Individuals, unless it is through the Culture Fund, contact the Culture Team for more information (cultureteam@oxford.gov.uk) or the Youth Ambition programme: contact the Councils Youth Engagement Officer for information at jbarrett2@oxford.gov.uk
- Park hire charges for events.
- Projects where there is a commercial gain
- Capital items or tangible "things", such as goods or equipment
- Projects that do not primarily benefit Oxford City residents (e.g. projects that are Oxfordshire county-wide and do not show specifically how they benefit residents of the city)
- Statutory bodies and activities where a more appropriate funding source exists or which are functions that are the responsibility of other public agencies, for example:
 - Extended school activities (unless it's through the commissioning process or , Youth Ambition grant programmes).
 - Projects and activities taking place in schools that target children & young people attending the school where the project is to take place (unless it's through the Youth Ambition grants programme).
 - Childcare, unless it is part of a larger project

- Play and activities targeting over 13s, unless they contribute to reducing antisocial behaviour and crime (unless it's through the commissioning process or Youth Ambition grants programme.)
- Social care
- Projects requesting funding to purchase food or clothing (unless it's through the commissioning process or Youth Ambition grants programme.)

You may wish to refer to Oxford City Council and other local plans and strategies in your application, to demonstrate how your project will fulfil their aims too. All these plans are available on the City Council website or in hard copy from the grants team.

- Oxford City Council's Corporate Plan
- Oxford's Sustainable Community Strategy
- Regeneration Framework for Oxford to 2026
- Homelessness Strategy
- Oxford City Children and Young People's Plan
- Leisure Strategy
- Oxford Culture Strategy
- Children & Young People's Plan
- Oxford Community Safety Plan
- Oxford City Anti-social behaviour Strategy and Action Plan

Monitoring

For those groups awarded a grant you will be required to complete and return 2, 6 monthly monitoring forms, one in October and another at the end of April the following year. A monitoring visit will also be made by officer(s) to funded projects.

The grants panel will also use the monitoring information returned in deciding on recommendations for any future funding applications from the same group.

A summary of the monitoring information returned to the Council will be reported to the City Executive Board on an annual basis.

Groups that fail to return monitoring information will incur a penalty. The penalty being that they will not be eligible for funding from the Council for one year and grant funding will be reclaimed.

Support in writing your application

Oxford City Council has been working with Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action (OCVA) to provide training in writing your application. For more information and to register your interest please contact OCVA on 01865 251946 or email info@ocva.org.uk

Funding Priorities

1. A vibrant, sustainable economy

A strong local economy, supported by innovative and effective education and training that is accessible by all is at the heart of vibrant and sustainable communities. Oxford City Council has set out a regeneration framework to help shape this work and wishes to support vulnerable families, improving employability and reducing health inequalities in the City.

Funding for the Vibrant, Sustainable Economy priority is through open bidding:-

Priority of this theme	Activities we will support
Raising levels of training and skills attainment in the most deprived areas of the City.	Training and skills projects aimed at areas of deprivation, which are not provided by other agencies and/or is not replacing or duplicating other organisations responsibility or funding. Projects which show a major investment from other agencies.

2. Meeting Housing Needs

Oxford City Council recognises the contribution that settled and appropriate accommodation for all our citizens can make to community safety. Our intention is to continue to fund a range of services including hostels, day care centres, floating support and employment and training opportunities.

In the main, these services would receive funding from a variety of funding streams, including Homelessness, Overcrowded & Worklessness Division (HOWD) and Supporting People, and wherever possible we will co-ordinate our spending with those agencies to generate value for money and enhance levels of service for our citizens.

Funding for the Meeting Housing Need priority will be commissioned.

Priority of this theme	Activities we support through commissioning
To sustain the Government's rough sleeping target at two-thirds below 1998 baseline figure	Provide hostel accommodation and supported housing for vulnerable young people. Provide day centre provision ranging from emergency provision to meaningful occupation. Provide tenancy sustainment services Provide opportunities for training, education and employment for homeless people.

3. Strong, Active Communities

Under this priority Oxford City Council wishes to use the grants funding process to support our aim of increasing social inclusion and community cohesion. We wish to prioritise funding for those projects which target the most disadvantaged communities in our city.

We will support the advice sector, recognising its value in supporting people in need from the most disadvantaged groups in the city, including through increasing the appropriate and responsible take up of council tax and housing benefits by those most in need

Priority will be given to supporting the community and voluntary sector infrastructure. The infrastructure organisation will provide advice, guidance, and support to community and voluntary sector organisations in the city. With a particular focus to include building their capacity to strengthen the skills of groups in a way that they are better able to identify issues and help meet their needs

We wish to support the delivery of the Oxford Community Safety Plan. Key priorities within the strategy for the coming years are funding interpersonal abuse and exploitation, including sexual and domestic abuse, human trafficking, sex working and child sexual exploitation; violence, car crime; burglary; serious anti-social behaviour; hate crime and tackling extremism.

Oxford is a city with vibrant culture and arts. Oxford City Council wishes to work in partnership with the community and voluntary sector to continue to support its international, national and local strengths and support the delivery of Oxfords Culture Strategy. The Council is keen to ensure that the grants budget adds value to the funding of other agencies responsible for delivering the key objectives within the strategy.

Finally, we wish to support activities aimed at enhancing our natural and built environment

Funding for the Strong, Active Communities priority is split into commissioning and open bidding.

Priorities of this theme that fall under commissioning	Activities we support through Commissioning
<p>Raising levels of income in the most deprived areas</p> <p>Promote a healthy voluntary and community sector.</p> <p>Increase active participation in cultural activities</p> <p>Respond to local concerns and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour</p> <p>Increasing play opportunities for non-disabled and disabled children and young people.</p>	<p>Projects that give advice on increasing the uptake of welfare benefits and tax credits for those on low incomes</p> <p>Projects that reduce debt and improve money management for those on low incomes</p> <p>An infrastructure project to provide advice, guidance, and support to community and voluntary sector organisations.</p> <p>Arts projects which are open to all and/or develop new opportunities for local people to participate, particularly in areas of deprivation</p> <p>Projects providing help and assistance to victims and survivors of sexual and domestic violence, sex working and child sexual exploitation</p> <p>Inclusive play and leisure projects for children & young people with disabilities which are open to all, particularly in areas of deprivation where they are not the primary responsibility of another statutory agency</p>
Priorities of this theme that fall under open bidding	Activities we will support through open bidding
<p>Increase social inclusion and community cohesion</p> <p>Ensure healthy and sustainable lifestyles</p> <p>Promote equality and community cohesion</p> <p>Protect and enhance Oxfords built and natural environment</p>	<p>Projects, activities or events that are aimed at areas of deprivation and / or support people living on low incomes that do one or more of the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase social inclusion and community cohesion • Ensure healthy and sustainable lifestyles (includes recreational & sporting activities) • Promote equality and community cohesion <p>Which are not provided by other agencies and/or is not replacing or duplicating other organisations responsibility or funding</p> <p>Projects which show a major investment from other agencies/funding sources.</p> <p>Projects, activities & events that protect and enhance Oxfords built and natural environment.</p>

4. Cleaner, greener city

Oxford City Council welcomes projects that will help it in reducing the impact we all have on the environment, tackling climate change and improving energy efficiency.

The Council is keen to support community and voluntary groups that raise awareness and the understanding of the impact of lifestyle on climate change. We also wish to support projects that encourage energy conservations and local generation of energy.

Funding for this theme will be through open bidding

Priorities of this theme	Activities we will supported through open bidding
Reduce carbon dioxide emissions Improve air quality	Raising awareness and understanding of the impact of lifestyle on climate change. Encouraging energy conservation and local generation of energy