



## **Building Community Capacity - Support for Local Activities**

Could your organisation benefit from the financial and practical support of Ayrshire Housing?

We have introduced a new small grants fund to assist community groups and their projects. It is particularly aimed at smaller groups which want to improve their engagement with their community, or wish to develop new community initiatives.

Cash grants will normally be restricted to £1,000. In addition or as an alternative, Ayrshire Housing is keen to explore opportunities to provide in kind support. This could involve assisting with the production of newsletters or with business advice, for example to help organise a group on a more formal basis.

Our grants can be used as match funding when applying for other grants. This would be subject to the rules of the other grant provider.

### **What we might support**

The types of activity that a grant can be used are broad. The key criterion is to demonstrate that the award will increase your group's effectiveness and impact in the community.

The types of activity might include:

- Assistance to become incorporated
- Training
- Feasibility studies

- Community engagement activities
- Community events
- Bid writing
- The purchase of equipment
- The production of print and online services

We will give particular weight to applications that might directly involve our tenants, or would at least be of general benefit to our tenants or applicants. You can find where we have housing on our website.

### **Outline proposal**

We want hear about your ideas. Initially, we ask applicants to fill in a simple form. This will give us the opportunity to get an understanding of your proposal. If it generally fits with the aims of the fund, we can advise on what you will have to do formalise your application. We can also discuss the possible mix of financial and in kind support that might benefit your project.

### **Formal application**

If the project is of interest, we will tell you what is needed for a full application. In doing this, we will try to keep the process as straightforward as possible. We will try to tailor our requirements to suit your specific idea. Applications will be assessed by a panel of Ayrshire Housing's volunteer Board members.

If successful, we would expect you to demonstrate that our grant has been put to good use. For example, we would expect a report of what was done for the grant and evidence of expenditure.

### **General community assistance**

As well as the above fund, we also make smaller contributions to community activities such as galas, and gardening and sports clubs. These are generally limited to no more than £250 for each good cause. We particularly welcome suggestions of support from our tenants. If you are simply looking for such a modest and straightforward contribution just contact the association in writing or by email.



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