

Neighbourhood Support Fund recommendations

Cheviot Assessment Panel is recommending the following amendments to the Neighbourhood Support Fund criteria with immediate effect:

Amendment

Increase the maximum grant to £5,000 (current maximum grant is £2,500).

Reason

It is felt that raising the limit to £5,000 will encourage more groups and organisations to apply and support local groups/organisations to deliver projects/initiatives. All other Localities have an application limit of £5,000 or above and are on course to spend their Neighbourhood Support Fund this financial year. If the current applications to the Cheviot Neighbourhood Support Fund are approved it will leave a balance of £92,652.33 to spend before the end of March 31st 2023. Based on the number of applications received so far this year, it is highly unlikely that the fund will be spent this financial year unless changes are made to the fund criteria.

Amendment

Remove the restriction that groups can only submit two applications per annum and that they must be for different projects.

Reason

The panel feels that this limitation is particularly challenging for Community Councils who are often the main body for organising and delivering community projects in their area. The panel believes the scrutiny of applications applied at the assessment stage will consider the merit and worth of all community projects and therefore the limitation on the number of times a group can apply is not required.

Nicola McIlwraith

Chair of Cheviot Assessment Panel