

Grant Awards Programme

Briefing Note for Applicants - Updated Grant Assessment Process

Purpose:

North Lanarkshire Council is introducing a revised assessment approach for community-focused grant programmes. The changes are designed to provide a more proportionate, efficient and risk-based assessment process while maintaining appropriate assurance, accountability and stewardship of public funds.

What is Changing?

Historically, assessment activity has relied heavily on in-person meetings and visits. Following a review of grant processes, the Council will increasingly utilise desktop assessment and telephone or virtual discussions where appropriate. This will reduce administrative burden on applicants and enable resources to be focused on areas where additional assurance is required.

Registered Organisations:

Organisations that are formally registered through our Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS) membership framework will generally be assessed through a combination of application review, desktop verification and telephone or virtual discussions. This recognises that such organisations have already demonstrated compliance with core governance and organisational requirements through the registration process.

New Applicants:

All organisations applying for funding for the first time will continue to receive an in-person assessment. This allows officers to better understand the organisation, verify governance arrangements, discuss project proposals and provide appropriate support during the application process.

Three-Year Reassessment:

To ensure continued assurance and consistency, organisations will be subject to an in-person reassessment at the end of each three-year registration period. This will provide an opportunity to review governance arrangements, organisational development, delivery capacity and compliance with previous funding requirements.

Risk-Based Approach:

The Council retains discretion to undertake an in-person assessment at any stage where additional assurance is required. This may include circumstances where there have been significant organisational changes, previous compliance concerns, higher-risk activities, safeguarding considerations, or where local knowledge indicates that enhanced scrutiny would be beneficial.

What This Means for Applicants:

- Reduced time commitment for established registered organisations.
- Faster and more streamlined assessment processes.
- Continued support and engagement from Council officers.
- Robust safeguards for new and higher-risk applications.
- A consistent and transparent approach to grant assessment.

Further Information:

Applicants will continue to receive guidance and support throughout the application process. Detailed programme guidance will identify any specific assessment requirements relevant to individual funding streams.