

## FUNDING POLICY AND GRANT CRITERIA GUIDANCE

### **Introduction**

The purpose of the Fund's grants programme is to support projects and partnerships through which Church of England churches or church-linked organisations meet local needs or involve themselves in community development and social action. The Fund is an expression of Goal 6 of the diocesan vision 'Transforming Church, Transforming Lives':

*'Together to increase the range, professionalism and spiritual fruitfulness of our partnerships with the local community, to help create a safer, fairer and more sustainable society'*

with a particular commitment to the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged.

### **Principles**

The Fund is:

- Designed to support church led community projects.
- particularly interested in building partnerships and strengthening the capacity of churches and church-linked organisations to become involved in and contribute towards their communities.
- independent but works closely with relevant diocesan teams.

The Fund aims to:

- achieve good practice as a grant-making body and to operate through straightforward and clear procedures.
- act as a first funder, which may enable new projects to unlock other funds.

Priorities

- Priority will be given to community projects and partnerships which are church led
- Priority will be given to projects and partnerships which build communities' own capacity to meet local needs, especially in relation to those who are excluded or vulnerable.
- The Fund will continue to restrict its interests to the geographical boundaries of the Diocese of Guildford and projects which benefit residents within the diocese.

### **Who can apply?**

Church of England churches and projects (including ecumenical projects where the Church of England is an active partner) seeking to fulfil or reflect Goal 6 of our Diocesan vision, Transforming Church, Transforming Lives.

Such applicants do not have to be registered with the Charity Commission but do have to have a constitution or set of rules, and a bank account, or should be supported by an organisation that has these.

### ***What kind of projects can apply?***

- The Fund will support almost any kind of church-led community project which fulfil its criteria
- The Fund will not normally be the sole funder of a project.
- Funding is not normally given to assist individuals directly, or for capital costs, or for projects which have been completed.
- Applications can be accepted for grants of any size, the average grant paid is in the region of £3,000. Grants are dispensed subject to the availability of funds at the time.

### **Funding Criteria Checklist**

The BGCF will consider your application if it meets most of the following criteria:

<b>Essential Criteria</b>	
1	The sponsoring church should be Church of England and within the Diocese of Guildford
2	The roots of the project should have been initiated by a Church of England church solely, or in partnership with others
3	The project should be directly linked to Goal 6 of TCTL: Cultivating Community Partnerships
4	The project should be viable organisationally and financially
5	The project should be meeting a need which is not being met elsewhere
6	The sponsoring church should demonstrate an ongoing relationship and financial commitment to the project, as reflected in the annual accounts

<b>Desirable Criteria</b>	
1	The project is a named part of the development plan of the sponsoring parish
2	The project features in the sponsoring parish annual report
3	The project has a prayer support plan
4	TCTL Goal 6 is a stated priority within the Church Development Plan of the sponsoring church
5	The sponsoring church reference links directly to these criteria