

Draft Policy for Donations to Charities and Local Organisations

The aim of this policy is to reach more groups in the community and gain an understanding of what they provide, how they provide it and who they provide it to. This will allow councillors to determine how Parish Council funds can be best used to benefit the community of East Horsley.

There are a number of charities and organisations in East Horsley that provide valuable services to the community not sufficiently covered by other sources. The Parish Council is able to provide some financial support to these organisations in line with statutory powers. For example a donation to Horsley Community Bus is made under Transport Act 1985 s106A.

Where no specific power exists the council can use the Localism Act 2011 General Power of Competence whilst it meets the qualification criteria or LGA 1972 s. 137:

‘Free Resource’ under this power the Parish Council may spend every year up to a specified limit on anything that, in the opinion of the parish council, is in the interests of the parish, or any part of it, or is in the interests of all or some of its inhabitants. This power cannot be used where some other power, whether conditional or unconditional, is available.

The Council shall identify, through a Charities Task Group those charities and organisations that provide a public service to the community of East Horsley on a not for profit basis. We aim to be proactive in this regard, yet be conscious of a proper due-diligence process.

Each year prior to setting the following year’s budget these charities and organisations will be reviewed and a decision made as to those that will be allocated a donation in the budget. And any new entities that have been identified will be considered for donation.

The process will be carried out by a Task Group reporting to the Finance & Risk Committee. They will determine under what statutory power each donation is to be made.

The Finance and Risk Committee will put a resolution to a full Council meeting.

If a body approaches the council for funding they will be required to follow the Policy on Grants to Outside Bodies, the process for this is attached.