



## Community Cohesion Grant Application Guidance Notes

### **Community Cohesion**

The Government states, “Community cohesion is what must happen in all communities to enable different groups of people to get on well together.”

It recognises that cohesion is something that can only be understood and built locally. A cohesive community is one where:

- People from different backgrounds have similar life opportunities
- People know their rights and responsibilities and respect those of others.
- People trust each other and their local institutions to act fairly.

Local authorities and their partners must demonstrate a strategic approach to community cohesion which meets the needs of their local community.

### **Background**

Results of the Annual General Survey in 2006 first identified Gosport as a Borough in need of community cohesion improvement. In 2008 the Government awarded those Local Authorities with poor cohesion results 3- year funding to develop a co-ordinated approach in their local areas to address these needs.

Since then the Council has been developing an approach to community cohesion within its own service areas. From May 2008, the Community Tasking and Co-ordination Group (CTCG), an established forum of frontline and community based services within the Gosport Community Safety Partnership, has pooled information about real and potential areas of community tensions, co-ordinated efforts to address them. The CTCG has also contributed to monthly tension monitoring reports which are filed by the Council with the Government Office of the South East.

In June 2009 the Gosport Partnership Board approved the development of a community cohesion strategy to

- analyse local data and pool local knowledge and experience among partners to map areas of community tension and poor cohesion;
- identify community cohesion outcomes and priorities and promote good relations between local people;

- Monitor and evaluate local progress through an action plan to address local cohesion issues.

The Partnership Board established four strategic cohesion outcomes as the result of reviewing its aspirations for the Borough in Gosport's Sustainable Community Strategy 2026 Vision. The outcomes below provide essential direction for the partnership's cohesion work and enables the Board to assess progress in strengthening community cohesion.

**Outcome 1- Everyone is treated fairly and has similar life chances.**

**Outcome 2- Everyone benefits from a safer, healthier environment and stronger local economy.**

**Outcome 3 - Everyone is respected and good relationships between people are encouraged.**

**Outcome 4 - Everyone can get involved locally and make a positive contribution to the Borough.**

Under each of the four strategic cohesion outcomes, the following priorities have been established to current and planned activities which strengthen cohesion by specifically addressing areas of local need.

**Priority A. Children and Young People** – increasing their opportunities for interacting with people from different backgrounds, participating in community activities and influencing local decisions

**Priority B. Integration** – improving information to new residents on local services and local activities, supporting opportunities for enhanced interaction between new and existing communities and promoting the value of diversity

**Priority C. Wards and Neighbourhoods** – identifying and tailoring ward and neighbourhood based initiatives to address the different needs of local areas and promoting activities which strengthen cohesion particularly in those where it is lowest.

**Priority D. Community Pride**- developing inclusive initiatives which foster community spirit and pride and celebrate Gosport's many attractions, opportunities and achievements to those who live, work and visit here.

The thematic partnerships which comprise the Gosport Partnership were asked to map any of their activities which contributed to these outcomes and addressed specific themes in order to establish an initial action plan.

## **Funding Programme**

Gosport Borough Council is committed to supporting strategic partnership initiatives which improve community cohesion in Gosport. The Council has agreed to offer up to a total of £60,000 in funding from its area based grant for community cohesion to the Gosport Partnership Board to allocate to local projects and initiatives which help to strengthen community cohesion and which meet the eligibility criteria.

Gosport Borough Council is the accountable body for this funding and the eligibility requirements described below must be adhered to.

## **Funding Levels**

The funding will be allocated in two levels:

Application A will be a small grant scheme where constituted Gosport non-profit groups can apply for amounts up to £1,500. A current or new activity can be considered if it can be shown to directly contribute to at least one of the Partnership's community cohesion outcomes and address at least one priority. One application per group may be made for 2010-11.

Application B will be for commissioning larger projects/initiatives over £1,500 which directly contribute to at least one of the Partnership's community cohesion outcomes and address at least one priority. Applicants can be individual non-profit making organisations or as the lead organisation, whether non-profit, statutory or private, for a recognised partnership of agencies working toward common aims which contribute to community cohesion in Gosport.

All allocated funding is expected to be spent by 31 March 2011.

## **How to Apply**

Application forms A and B for cohesion funding can be downloaded from the Gosport Partnership web site on [www.gosportpartnership.co.uk](http://www.gosportpartnership.co.uk) or by emailing the LSP Co-ordinator Jo Hamilton on [jhamilton@fareham.gov.uk](mailto:jhamilton@fareham.gov.uk)  
Requests for printed copies can be made to:

Gosport Borough Council, Corporate Policy & Performance, Town Hall, High St., Gosport, Hants. PO12 1EB

Completed application forms can be submitted electronically to Jo Hamilton at the email address above or by post to her at Gosport Borough Council at the mailing address above.

### **Deadline for Applications**

Applications must be received by the Partnership Coordinator by **26 February 2010** for consideration by the Gosport Partnership Board at its March 2010 meeting.

Any Community Cohesion funds not allocated by the Board at its March meeting will be available for allocation to a second round of new applications. This deadline will be **11 June** for consideration by the Board at its June 2010 meeting.

Applicants will be notified of the Partnership Board's decision by letter or email (if preferred) within 10 days of the meeting date.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

#### **Application A Small Grants:**

All of the following criteria must be met in order for an application for up to £1,500 in cohesion grant funding to be considered.

1. Applications can be made from any constituted non-profit making organisation operating in Gosport;
2. Funding will not normally be given to support a current activity of an organisation; however funding can be considered if the project enhances that activity to deliver any of the Partnership's cohesion outcomes;
3. Funding will not be considered for salaries or expenses of paid staff.
4. Funding will not be considered for expenses from a project or activity which has already occurred.
5. Applicants must explain what the anticipated outcomes of the activity will be, how they will be achieved and the time period in which they will be delivered;
6. Applicants must evidence that the activity addresses a local need within Gosport e.g. identified via reliable data or local consultation and specify who will benefit from it;

7. Applicants must describe how funding will be used and identify any other sources and amounts of funding used;
8. Applicants must explain what will occur at the end of the funding period e.g. if the activity will continue or if it will come to an end;
9. Applicants must have procedures in place to manage finances and have a bank account with 2 signatories;
10. Applicants are required to have a written equal opportunities policy or statement in place or agree to comply with Gosport Borough Council's policy and statement;
11. Applicants working with children and/or vulnerable adults must provide a copy of their Child and/or Adult Protection Policy or agree to comply with Gosport Borough Council's policies and procedures;
12. Applicants must provide a short written statement at the end of the funding period to the Gosport Partnership Co-ordinator describing the outcomes achieved.

### **Application B Larger Projects:**

All of the following criteria must be met in order for an application for over £1,500 in cohesion grant funding to be considered.

1. Applications can be made from an individual non-profit making organisations or as the lead organisation, whether non-profit, statutory or private, for a recognised partnership of agencies working toward common aims which contribute to community cohesion in Gosport;
2. The project or initiative for which funding is being requested must identify at least one of the Partnership's cohesion outcomes and at least one priority it addresses;
3. Funding will not normally be given to support the present core activity of an organisation; however funding can be considered if the project significantly enhances that activity to deliver any of the Partnership's cohesion outcomes;
4. Applicants must evidence that the project/ initiative addresses an identified need within Gosport e.g. identified via reliable statistical information or local consultation and specify who will benefit from it;

- 5.** The aims and objectives of the project/ initiative must be clearly stated along with the timeline in which they will be delivered;
- 6.** Requests for funding to employ staff must be accompanied by a job description and person specification with explanation of line management protocols and accountability;
- 7.** Funding will not be considered for expenses from a project or activity which has already occurred.
- 8.** Information must be provided on how the project/ initiative will be measured e.g. by statistical evidence/ user feedback;
- 9.** Applications must include a sustainable strategy e.g. an explanation of what will occur at the end of the funding period;
- 10.** Applications must contain a cost breakdown of how the funding will be used and identify any other sources of funding used;
- 11.** Applicants must provide evidence that procedures are in place to manage finances and have a bank account with 2 signatories;
- 12.** Applicants are required to have a written equal opportunities policy or statement in place;
- 13.** Applicants working with children and/or vulnerable adults must provide a copy of their Child and/or Adult Protection Policy or agree to comply with the Gosport Borough Council's policies and procedures;
- 14.** Successful applicants will be required to submit 6-monthly monitoring information to the Gosport Partnership Co-ordinator using the template provided.