



# Stronger Communities Funding Policy

## 1. Purpose and scope

This policy sets out the principles under which we will consider the award of grants to groups and organisations from our Selwood Housing stronger communities fund. Grants from this fund help support projects designed to make our communities better places to live in, as set out in our corporate priorities.

## 2. Underpinning principles

We must comply with the Regulator of Social Housing Governance and Financial Viability Standard – 2015, the Neighbourhood and Community Standard – 2015 and the Tenant Involvement and Empowerment Standard – 2017.

We are also governed by the Companies Act 2006 and the Selwood Housing Society Limited Articles of Association in relation to the spending of funds

## 3. Policy details

### Definition of community

For the purposes of this policy, the term 'community' refers not only to a geographical area but also to a demographic.

### Funding

The source of funding for the Selwood stronger communities fund comes from some of our partners who supply services to us, and who wish to contribute small sums of money to the fund as part of the procurement process. Any contribution made does not affect the outcome of the procurement but does provide a source of income for community benefit.

The maximum amount of grant money payable in any one year is £20,000, which for the purposes of flexibility has been set below the sum in the Nationwide loan agreement covenant.



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### Grants for community projects

Grants under this policy which are made through the fund are for community projects that can evidence a benefit to our customers or a community initiative in one of our neighbourhoods and in addition help to deliver at least one of the following outcomes.

- To provide relief, support, or essential goods for those in need due to poverty.
- To promote tolerance, understanding and respect between diverse groups within our communities.
- To involve more people in local decision making.
- To involve more people in the life of their community.
- To strengthen existing community groups and support the formation of new ones.
- To help people to learn new skills or improve existing ones, thereby fostering self-reliance, confidence, and independence.
- To improve the appearance of the local area and/or make it a better place to live in.

### Principles associated with the awards of grants

- The maximum money grant for any one project is £2,000 but there is no minimum grant. Applications for grants will be considered by the customer involvement and communities manager.
- The process for evaluating and awarding grants will be fair, transparent, and accountable. Organisations and groups will only receive funding if they have suitable governance arrangements in place, and because of this we are unable to fund individuals.
- We will fund not only new projects but also existing ones, although we will not provide retrospective funding. Revenue costs will only be funded for a strictly limited period, and applicants will need to show how these costs will be met once that period has ended.



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- We will normally only consider one grant application from a group or organisation in any one financial year and will endeavour to ensure that grants are awarded across a wide range of communities to ensure fairness.
- Applicants can only use the grant for the purpose for which it was awarded and must agree to repay it if it cannot be used for that purpose. They must also agree to refer to the funding they receive from us in any promotional material.

### 4. Signposting

- Neighbourhood improvements guidance
- Neighbourhood management policy
- Neighbourhood management procedure
- Neighbourhood planning strategy
- Selwood Housing Society Limited Articles of Association
- Selwood Housing stronger communities funding procedure



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## Decision-making record

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting/Minute Reference</b>	<b>Version /Amendment</b>
23 August 2018	Community grant and funding policy (Richard Flavin)	1
19 November 2020	Selwood Housing stronger community funding policy (Pete Davies).	2
30 March 2022	Pete Davies	3
30 June 2023	Laura Pictor (to remove references to in-kind support and ensure criteria for grants is focused to our customers)	4