

Amber Valley Borough Council



**AMBER VALLEY
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Funding Strategy

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Foreword

For some years Amber Valley Borough Council has provided funding advice to Community/Voluntary groups, Social Enterprises, Small Businesses, Registered Charities and internal business units. In order to ensure that the community of Amber Valley is well placed to take advantage of available internal and external funding, the Borough Council has committed resources to employ a Funding Officer. The Funding Officer assists local groups and internal business units to apply for money to advance the quality of life for residents and increase investment into the Borough. This Funding Strategy has been developed to ensure effective co-ordination and prioritisation of external funding bids across Council activities.

Aim

To develop the necessary processes and procedures through which we can secure the maximum level of external funding for the community of Amber Valley to achieve our aim of “Making Amber Valley a better place to visit, invest and do business” by:

- Improving the quality of life of our community through improvement of its economic, environmental and social well being.
- Obtaining best value from what we do.
- Developing the effectiveness of how we work within the community.
- Providing a co-ordinated approach to applying for funding across the council.
- Identify linkages between funding from external organisations and money from the Council’s own resources.

Objectives

To achieve our aim it will be necessary to:

- Research and keep up to date with all external and internal funding opportunities.
- Establish effective information and communication systems with internal and external groups regarding funding opportunities.
- Build and maintain relationships with both external organisations and internal departments to develop a base of information against which future levels of funding activity can be assessed.
- Develop the necessary processes and procedures through which we can secure the maximum level of funding and investment for Amber Valley.
- Continue the funding advisory service to help establish sources of external funding and provide support to create successful applications.
- Provide a resource to the Council, other agencies, bodies and individuals in terms of knowledge base in respect of fund availability and access to information on application procedures.
- Ensure that the Council’s own investments are matched whenever possible to the availability of external funding sources.

- Inform the project development process, to identify additional opportunities and to generate and encourage innovative ideas.
- To ensure all funded projects are processed and recorded through a central database

Linkages to the Council’s Strategic Objectives

Funding applications will be assessed to ensure that they meet with the Council’s Strategic Objectives. See below:

Strategic Objective	Key Priorities for 2007/8
Vibrant Local Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective performance management to deliver innovative value for money services • Improve customer service and ensure equal access to service • Improve public participation • Improve effectiveness of partnership working • Sustainability
Sustainable Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise use of material resources and maximise waste recycling • Cleaner, Greener, Safer Amber Valley • Increase energy efficiency & contribute to the limitation of climate change
Healthier Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing health inequality • Active young people • Dietary extremes • Protecting public health
Sustainable Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve housing services and provision in Amber Valley
Safer Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in partnership to improve community safety in Amber Valley
Thriving Economy & Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regenerate the market towns of Alfreton, Belper, Heanor and Ripley • Increase the number of people that visit, invest and do business in Amber Valley • Build community capacity to tackle local issues in the most deprived parts of Amber Valley

Partnership and Information Exchange

Internal

The Funding Officer will liaise with internal business units and be responsible for developing and thereafter maintaining a database, providing and communicating information on funding opportunities, creating linkages between external funding, the Council's own resources and capitalising on the expertise of specialist officers within the Council.

Acting in a supporting role, the Funding Officer will work with managers and staff on specific projects encouraging the use of external funding to achieve the aims and objectives of both the Council and the wider Community.

External

The Funding Officer will continue to develop links with external organisations, agencies and groups to encourage greater information exchange, provide funding opportunities and partnership working to maximise benefits to the Borough and its communities.

Information will be communicated internally and externally in the form of a regular newsletter and the Council's website/intranet.

Working with Funders

The Funding Officer will continue to work with local and national funding organisations to ensure the maximum benefit for Amber Valley and its communities from recognised sources. Effective networking through regular contact and attending workshops will ensure that the information given is always relevant and up to date.

Funding Advisory Service

Council officers and members of the general public will have the opportunity to seek funding advice for specific projects. The process will include:

- Initial enquiry detailing outline of the project.
- Funding search carried out using a database of national, regional and local funders. To check for linkages with any funds held by the council.
- Detailed funding report sent out to the enquirer.
- Follow up carried out to see if the information was useful and monitor the way forward.
- Specific assistance on a one-to-one basis to advise on draft applications.
- Further follow up to track the success of the application.

Consultation

- This funding strategy has been developed following consultation with various Business Units and through annual customer satisfaction surveys issued to community groups.
- The Funding Officer will continue to have ongoing dialogue through the website, one-to-one feedback, and annual satisfaction surveys.
- The funding strategy will expand and improve access to funding opportunities for Amber Valley Borough Council and the wider community.

Performance Monitoring

Performance monitoring will be carried out to establish the following:

- Funding successes both internally and externally.
- Money drawn into Amber Valley as a result of Council intervention.
- Officer time recorded against a project, whether successful or not.
- Linkages to the Council's Strategic Objectives and Amber Valley Partnerships Community Strategy.
- Publicising success stories.

Conclusion

To conclude this funding strategy has been developed to centralise the process of applying for internal or external funding throughout Amber Valley Borough Council and provide linkages between the Council's own resources and external monies.

The Funding Officer will co-ordinate this process and continue with the funding advisory service to the communities of Amber Valley to improve the quality of life for residents and increase investment into the Borough.

Amber Valley Borough Council is embarking on a major change process to ensure that the Council's investment delivers against the strategic priorities for Amber Valley and achieves value for money services for the Borough's residents.

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