

# Resident Association and Community Groups Funding Policy

## June 2023

Lead Officer: Customer Engagement Manager

<b>Version No.</b>	<b>Purpose/Changes</b>	<b>Approval Date</b>	<b>Approved By</b>	<b>Suggested Review Date</b>
V4	Full review	14/06/2023	Executive Leadership team	July 2026
V3	Health Check	15/4/2020	Head of Corporate	April 2023
V2	Health Check	27/3/2017	Head of Customer & Support Services	April 2020
V1	New document	14/3/2016	Community Voice	March 2017

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## **1. Our policy is...**

- 1.1 To provide support to recognised local community groups and resident associations in terms of financial assistance to help fund local projects.

## **2. It applies to...**

- 2.1 Funding and grants available to Ongo Homes recognised local community groups and resident associations.

## **3. Because we want to...**

- Empower residents to take ownership of their estates and to work in partnership with us
- Ensure the recognition criteria for local groups is maintained
- Ensure that funding is available for the benefit of local communities
- Be clear on our approach and criteria

## **4. We will...**

- 4.1 Offer a variety of grants ourselves but we will also help you to access external funding where possible.

### **4.2 Start Up Grants**

- 4.2.1 A Start Up Grant of £200 will be given as a one off payment to new community groups and resident associations to help with the cost of getting the group up and running and to pay towards items such as leaflets and venue hire.

- 4.2.2 To qualify for this grant the following criteria needs to be met:

- The group should be willing to represent views of all tenants and residents living within an agreed boundary area (majority of homes within the boundary must be within Ongo Homes ownership). The area they represent (known as the area of benefit) will be detailed in a constitution developed in partnership between the group and Ongo Homes' (OH) Customer Engagement team
- Dedicated support will be provided from Customer Engagement for a period of up to 6 months to help a group or association become established and the committee to develop in their roles. This support can vary dependent on the group
- The group or association must adopt a formal constitution that is recognised by OH and members must sign up to the OH Volunteers Code of Conduct
- A bank account for the group or association must be opened by the group (containing 3 signatures on the account which must be from different households). These signatures cannot be from anyone who has fraud or theft convictions against them

#### **4.3 Annual Grants**

4.3.1 The Annual Grant is payable for established community groups or resident associations to help with the running costs involved in sustaining the group and to pay towards venue hire, stationery, leaflets and advertising.

4.3.2 The amount of grant available will depend on the number of OH properties covered by the group:

- Less than 100 properties - £200
- Between 100 and 300 properties - £300
- 300 properties and over - £400

4.3.3 This grant is in addition to individual groups or associations raising their own funds from external sources.

4.3.4 To qualify for this grant, groups need to ensure that the following criteria is met:

- An Annual General Meeting (AGM) is held and group accounts are checked and independently verified prior to the meeting taking place
- There is a successful election of the officers and committee as stated in their constitution (all committee members to be elected, this may delay the payment of the grant being made)

4.3.5 Consideration by the Customer Engagement Manager will be given on whether payments of annual grants will be made for those individual groups or associations who have not been active within their local community (no activities taking place during the previous year). This could result in a reduction to the specified payment, or no grant being awarded at all. Where this happens, the group's chairperson will be made aware of the reasons for any decision.

#### **5. Making sure we do what we say...**

5.1 The Customer Engagement Team are responsible for implementing and monitoring this policy.

5.2 The cost/benefit will be assessed as part of the annual impact assessment process.

#### **6. Other things to bear in mind...**

6.1 This policy also links to our Volunteer Code of Conduct.

#### **7. We'll look at this again...**

7.1 In three years time, or sooner if anything changes.