Resolution

Subject	Resident Association Funding Guide HoST, October 2026 APPROVAL
Voting Deadline	30 Oct 2026, 11:59 PM GMT
Notes to Voters	Health check: • •Policy scope expanded to explicitly include recognised community groups and employees administering funding • Policy purpose strengthened to emphasise fairness, transparency and community benefit • Equality, diversity and inclusion commitments added • Start Up Grant eligibility criteria clarified, including constitution approval and Volunteer Code of Conduct requirements • Financial controls strengthened, including two-signatory authorisation for transactions • Proportionate risk assessments introduced for relevant financial, safeguarding or conduct concerns • Eligible and prohibited uses of grant funding clarified • Evidence of expenditure required to support account verification before AGMs • Examples of community activity added to clarify expectations for annual grant funding • Arrangements for closing or inactive groups and the use of remaining assets introduced • Funding monitoring and value-for-money assessment requirements strengthened • Annual grant threshold wording amended for groups covering exactly 300 properties • Previous restriction on bank account signatories with fraud or theft convictions removed • Policy review arrangements clarified, including earlier reviews where legislation, regulation, organisational requirements or good practice change
Organiser	Rabul Ibrahim
Voters	Jan Williams ✔ Yes Lee Coulson ✔ Yes Mark Perrin ○ No Vote

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	Mat Ashmore	✔ Yes
	Louise Usher	✔ Yes
	Dawn Hill	○ No Vote
	Jordan Barr	○ No Vote
	Becky Johns	✔ Yes
	Maureen Mathieson	✔ Yes
	Martin Phillips	✔ Yes
	John Hughes	✔ Yes

Total Votes	Vote	Total
	Yes	8 (72.73%)
	No	0
	Abstain	0
	No Vote	3 (27.27%)

Decision Approved on 30 Oct 2026

Decision History

5 Nov 2026, 11:06 AM GMT Approved on 30 Oct 2026
by Rabul Ibrahim

Documents

1. RA Funding Guide - V5 - Oct 26 - Uapp- FD 1

Vote Item

Resident Association Funding Guide
HoST, October 2026
APPROVAL

Total Votes	8 (72.73%)	Yes
Decision	Approved on 30 Oct 2026	
Decision Remarks		

Vote Details

Jan Williams	✔ Yes
Lee Coulson	✔ Yes
Mark Perrin	No Vote
Mat Ashmore	✔ Yes
Louise Usher	✔ Yes
Dawn Hill	No Vote
Jordan Barr	No Vote
Becky Johns	✔ Yes

Maureen Mathieson	✔Yes
Martin Phillips	✔Yes
John Hughes	✔Yes

1. RA Funding Guide - V5 - Oct 26 - Uapp- FD

Resident Association and Community Groups Funding Policy

October 2026

Lead Officer: Customer Engagement Manager

Version No.	Purpose/Changes	Approval Date	Approved By	Suggested Review Date
5.0	Health check		Heads of Service Team	
4.0	Full review	14/06/2023	Executive Leadership team	July 2026
3.0	Health Check	15/4/2020	Head of Corporate	April 2023
2.0	Health Check	27/3/2017	Head of Customer & Support Services	April 2020
1.0	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 through financial assistance that helps fund local projects, activities and initiatives which benefit local communities. Funding will be allocated fairly, transparently and in accordance with the criteria set out in this policy.

2. It applies to...

2.1 Funding and grants available to Ongo Homes recognised local community groups and resident associations. This policy applies to:

- Start Up Grants.
- Annual Grants.
- Community groups and resident associations recognised by Ongo Homes.
- Ongo employees involved in administering funding arrangements.

3. Because we want to...

- Empower residents to take ownership of their neighbourhoods and work in partnership with us.
- Ensure recognition criteria for local groups are maintained.
- Ensure funding is available for the benefit of local communities.
- Be clear about our approach and grant criteria.
- Promote equality, diversity and inclusion and ensure all residents have opportunities to participate in local groups and funding activities.
- Support groups that are representative of the communities they serve.
- Ensure funding decisions are fair, transparent and consistent.

4. We will...

4.1 Offer a variety of grants and, where possible, support groups to access external funding opportunities.

4.2 A Start Up Grant of £200 will be provided as a one-off payment to new community groups and resident associations to help with the cost of establishing the group and meeting expenses such as:

- Venue hire
- Publicity materials
- Printing and stationery
- Resident engagement activities

To qualify for this grant, the following criteria need to be met:

- The group must be willing to represent the views of all tenants and residents living within an agreed boundary area. The majority of homes within the boundary area must be Ongo Homes properties.
- The area represented by the group (known as the Area of Benefit) will be detailed within a constitution developed in partnership between the group and Ongo Homes' Customer Engagement Team.
- Dedicated support will be provided by the Customer Engagement Team for up to six months to help the group become established and develop committee members in their roles.

- The group must adopt a formal constitution approved by Ongo Homes.
- Committee members must sign up to Ongo Homes' Volunteer Code of Conduct.
- A bank account must be opened in the name of the group or association.
- The account must have a minimum of three authorised signatories from separate households.
- Financial transactions should be authorised by at least two signatories.
- Where Ongo becomes aware of a relevant financial, safeguarding or conduct concern, it will undertake a proportionate risk assessment before approving or continuing funding. Any personal information considered will be handled in accordance with data protection legislation and Ongo's relevant policies.

4.3 Annual Grants are available to established community groups and resident associations to help with ongoing running costs, including:

- Venue hire
- Stationery
- Publicity and communications
- Community engagement activities
- Equipment that benefits the local community.

The amount available depends on the number of Ongo Homes properties within the Area of Benefit:

Number of Properties	**Grant Value**
Less than 100	£200
100 to 300	£300
More than 300	£400

Annual Grants are in addition to any funding secured by groups from external sources.

To quality for this grant, groups need to ensure that the following criteria are 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)

4.4 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.
Examples of activity may include Regular meetings, events and activities, partnership working with local organisations, resident newsletters or communications.

4.5 Groups must use grant funding only for the purpose for which it was awarded. Examples of what the funding may be used for:

- Community events and activities.
- Venue hire.
- Resident engagement activities.
- Publicity and marketing materials.
- Equipment that benefits the local community.

Funding must not be used for:

- Personal financial gain.
- Political campaigning or activities.
- Repayment of personal or organisational debt.
- Activities that are unlawful or discriminatory.
- Expenditure that does not provide a clear benefit to the local community.

Evidence of expenditure will be required for having accounts verified before the Annual General Meetings.

4.6 If a group closes or becomes inactive…

4.6.1 Customer Engagement will provide support with arranging to close the accounts in accordance with the groups Constitution.

4.6.2 The assets financial and otherwise remaining when the group has settled any outstanding liabilities shall be used for the purposes to benefit the community and agreed at a meeting with the committee.

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 effectiveness and value for money of the funding programme will be reviewed through Ongo's annual impact assessment process.

5.3 Funding decisions and grant payments will be monitored to ensure they are made fairly, transparently and in accordance with the requirements of this policy.

6. Other things to bear in mind...

6.1 This policy links to our Volunteers Code of Conduct.

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

7.1 This policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner if there are changes to legislation, regulation, organisational requirements or recognised good practice.