

1 Principle

We want our u3a to grow and to flourish. A diverse range of Interest Groups offers more opportunities for members to gain the benefits of learning, socialising and sharing their hobbies, interests and knowledge.

Groups are generally expected to be self-financing but to promote the setting up of groups and support the vibrancy of our u3a, Stowmarket u3a can consider a financial grant to assist in the establishment of new groups and in exceptional circumstances, to regenerate or re-energise groups in danger of folding or failing.

Grants are made available entirely at the discretion of the Committee and with regard to the overall financial position of our u3a.

2 Grant Criteria

Grants of up to a maximum of £50 may be awarded as a contribution to the proposed expenditure. Any award will generally be for one or more of the following types of expenditure:

- Purchase of equipment or initial resources essential for the establishment of the group
- Cost of providing an appropriate venue for an initial set-up meeting(s)
- Cost of a paid instructor / tutor necessary for the establishment of the group
- Cost of an official guide for a specific visit to an external site provided that any such visit is open to the general membership with a view to expanding membership of the group
- Costs of action to regenerate a group in danger of folding.

Expenses for hospitality and/or entertainment are excluded for grant support.

3 Grant Applications

- Application for a grant should be submitted by the Group Leader/Convener to the Committee via the Groups Co-ordinator.
- Application should be in writing and must state the reasons for the application e.g. proposed expenditure and how this meets the grant criteria.

- An email application is acceptable or the Grant Application Form on the Stowmarket u3a website can be completed.
- Except in exceptional circumstances applications should be made in advance for expenses to be incurred and within 12 months of the start-up of the group.
- Only one application in any year would normally be considered.

3 Advice of Grant

The Groups Co-ordinator or Treasurer will notify the group of any award following agreement or otherwise of the Stowmarket u3a Committee.

The money awarded will be ring-fenced for the group to be set against the future invoice / claim. Any invoice(s) or claims should be addressed to the Treasurer not the Group Leader / Convenor, in line with Stowmarket u3a financial policy.

June 2023