

Good Relations Grant Programme 2026–2027 – Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the Good Relations Grant Programme?

A. The Good Relations Grant Programme is delivered by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council and supports community, voluntary and charitable organisations to deliver projects that promote good relations. The programme aims to reduce prejudice, promote equality, and improve relationships between people of different religious belief, political opinion and racial group, in line with Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act (1998) and the Executive's Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) Strategy.

Q. Who can apply for the Good Relations Grant Programme?

A. Properly constituted community, voluntary and charitable organisations based within Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough can apply. Groups must be democratically accountable, hold an AGM, be managed by an elected committee, have appropriate governing documents, and demonstrate a fair and equitable ethos in line with Section 75.

Q. How much funding is available?

A. Organisations can apply for up to £2,000 per application, subject to funding being available from The Executive Office (TEO) and value-for-money assessment.

Q. What is the purpose of the funding?

A. Funding supports projects that improve day-to-day relationships, challenge sectarianism and racism, promote mutual understanding, and contribute to a more united and shared society. All projects must include a substantial Good Relations element and align with at least one T:BUC priority and outcome.

Q. What types of projects can be funded?

A. Eligible projects include activities such as facilitated workshops, training, study visits, best practice visits, community engagement programmes, seminars, and other initiatives that clearly demonstrate good relations outcomes and impact within the Borough.

Q. What costs are eligible for funding?

A. Eligible expenditure may include:

Room or venue hire

Facilitation, training or coaching costs

Transport hire

Advertising and publicity related to the project

Equipment and materials essential to the project

Best practice visits and trips (where part of a wider programme)

Hospitality related to workshops, conferences or study visits

All costs must be directly related to the approved project.

Q. What cannot be funded?

A. The grant will not fund:

Retrospective costs

Salaries or wage costs

Alcohol or refreshments

Rent or hire of the organisation's own premises

Bank charges, fines or deficits

Party political activity

Costs already funded by another source

Clothing, flags or bunting (without prior approval)

Projects with no clear Good Relations outcomes

Q. When must projects take place?

A. All funded projects must be delivered between 1 April 2026 and 31 March 2027. Activities outside these dates will not be eligible for funding.

Q. Is match funding required?

A. Match funding is not mandatory, but applicants should demonstrate value for money and may include other funding sources where appropriate.

Q. How do I apply?

A. Applications must be submitted online through the Council's Grant Management System during the open call period. Applicants are also required to attend a mandatory Grant Information Session (online or in person) before submitting an application.

Q. When does the application process open and close?

A.

Applications open: 5 January 2026

Applications close: 26 February 2026

Assessment period: March 2026

Notification of outcome: April 2026

Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Q. How will applications be assessed?

A. Eligible applications will be assessed by a panel against set criteria, including:

Demonstrated need for the project

Alignment with T:BUC priorities and Good Relations outcomes

Opportunities for learning and longer-term impact

Value for money and cost per participant

Promotion of social inclusion

A minimum score of 60% is required to be considered successful.

Q. How is the grant paid?

A. Successful applicants will receive:

50% of the grant upfront, and

50% on completion, following submission and approval of a grant claim with original receipts and bank statements.

All payments are made to the organisation's bank account by BACS transfer.

Q. What monitoring and reporting is required?

A. Funded organisations must complete monitoring and evaluation reports, provide evidence of expenditure, and demonstrate that agreed outputs and outcomes have been achieved. Failure to meet monitoring requirements may result in reduced or reclaimed funding.

Q. What publicity requirements apply?

A. All promotional material must acknowledge Council, T:BUC and The Executive Office support and use approved logos and wording. All publicity must be approved by the Council's PR and Marketing team in advance.

Q. What happens if my application is unsuccessful?

A. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by email and may request feedback. An appeals process is available and details will be provided as part of the funding call.