



Underhill Grassroots Growth Fund

Mumbles Community Council

Supporting community sport through community participation

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1. Introduction

The Underhill Grassroots Growth Fund ("the Fund") has been established by Mumbles Community Council to support constituted grassroots sports organisations operating within the community.

The Fund has been designed to:

- Encourage sustainable use of the Underhill Sports Facility;
- Support grassroots sport and community participation;
- Strengthen partnership working with local clubs and organisations;
- Reinvest Council funding into community sport through a fair and transparent allocation model.

2. Purpose of the Fund

The purpose of the Fund is to create a dedicated annual grant fund that will support participating grassroots sports organisations. Grant awards will be calculated by reference to eligible recorded venue usage and expenditure at the Underhill Sports Facility.

The scheme is intended to:

- Encourage clubs to utilise Underhill facilities;
- Increase participation in community sport;
- Support the long-term sustainability of grassroots organisations;
- Retain community spending within the venue;
- Deliver measurable community benefit.

The Fund is intended to support the sustainable growth and development of grassroots sports organisations by investing in areas such as:

- Coaching and training;
- Sports equipment and pitch rentals;
- Marketing and promotion;
- Participation growth initiatives;
- Community engagement activities;
- Volunteer development;
- Other agreed development activities which support organisational growth and community participation.

3. Funding Arrangement

The Council will establish an annual Grassroots Growth Fund by allocating from general reserves.

For the 2026/27 financial year, the total annual funding allocation shall be set at £25,000.

Any additional external contribution will be added to the Fund only after it has been formally agreed and approved.

The Fund does not operate as:

- a rebate;
- cashback scheme;
- reimbursement arrangement;
- or return of monies spent.

Eligible recorded expenditure and venue engagement will be used solely as the basis for calculating grant awards under the methodology set out in section 7. An award remains a discretionary grant and does not create an automatic entitlement to reimbursement.

Income generated from the £1 loyalty card administration fee will also be allocated directly to the Fund.

4. Eligibility

To qualify for the scheme, organisations must:

- Be a constituted grassroots sports club or recognised community sports organisation;
- Operate on a not-for-profit basis;
- Deliver sporting or recreational activities within Underhill;
- Register with the Fund;
- Hold a valid Grassroots Growth loyalty card;
- Have no outstanding debts owed to the Council.

The Council reserves the right to request:

- Constitution documents;
- Bank account details;
- Governing body affiliation evidence;
- Safeguarding documentation;
- Any additional information deemed necessary.

5. Loyalty Card Scheme

Participating organisations will be issued with a Grassroots Growth loyalty card or clubs will be able to utilise their own adding in the QR code provided by MCC.

Terms of Use

- A £1 administration fee shall apply per card;
- All administration fee income will be allocated directly into the Grassroots Growth Fund;
- Cards must be presented at the point of purchase (Café/Bar use only)
- Only expenditure recorded through the loyalty card system will be included within quarterly calculations.
- Clubs are responsible for ensuring cards are used correctly.

The Council accepts no responsibility for unrecorded transactions where loyalty cards are not presented.

6. Eligible Expenditure

Eligible expenditure may include:

- Room bookings;
- Café purchases;
- Training and meeting space hire;
- Other approved venue expenditure.

The Council reserves the right to determine eligible and ineligible expenditure categories.

7. Allocation Methodology

The annual funding pot of £25,000 will be divided into four base quarterly allocations of £6,250.

1. At the end of each quarter:
2. Each participating organisation's eligible recorded expenditure for that quarter will be calculated.
3. Each organisation will be eligible to receive a grant equivalent to 10% of its eligible recorded expenditure.

The calculation will be: eligible recorded expenditure × 10% = quarterly grant award.

Grant awards are subject to continued eligibility, verification of expenditure, Council approval and the availability of funding within the relevant quarterly allocation.

If the total value of calculated grant awards exceeds the funding available for that quarter, each organisation's award will be reduced proportionally so that the total awarded does not exceed the available quarterly allocation.

Any unallocated quarterly funding will be carried forward to the following quarter within the same financial year. Funding remaining at the end of the financial year will not create an automatic entitlement for participating organisations and will be dealt with in accordance with the Council's decisions and financial procedures.

Worked example

Where Club A records £5,000, Club B records £3,000 and Club C records £1,000 of eligible expenditure in a quarter, their respective grant awards will be £500, £300 and £100.

8. Eligible Use of Funding

Grant funding awarded through the Grassroots Growth Fund must be used to support the development and sustainability of grassroots sport and community participation.

Eligible uses may include:

- Coaching costs ;
- Training and development;
- Sports equipment and pitch;
- Marketing and promotional activity;
- Participation growth initiatives;
- Volunteer development;
- Community outreach activity;
- Other approved organisational development purposes.

Funding must not be used for:

- Personal gain;
- Political activity;
- Activities contrary to Council policies or legislation;
- Purposes unrelated to grassroots sport or community participation.

9. Payment of Grants

Grant awards will be calculated and distributed on a quarterly basis, subject to:

- Continued eligibility;
- Compliance with the scheme requirements;
- Availability of approved funding.

Quarterly grant awards will be calculated at 10% of each organisation's verified eligible recorded expenditure during the relevant period, subject to section 7 and the funding available.

The Council reserves the right to:

- Withhold payments;
- Request supporting evidence;
- Recover funding where misuse or fraud is identified.

10. Monitoring and Reporting

Participating organisations must provide an annual report detailing:

- How funding has been used;
- Outcomes achieved;
- Participation growth or community benefit delivered;
- Any supporting evidence requested by the Council.

Failure to provide the required reporting information may result in:

- Suspension from the scheme;
- Withholding of future grant payments;
- Recovery of funding where appropriate.

11. Monitoring and Review

The scheme will be reviewed annually to ensure:

- Fairness;
- Financial sustainability;
- Community benefit;
- Operational effectiveness.

The Council reserves the right to amend, suspend or withdraw the scheme at any time.

12. Legal Powers

The scheme is delivered under:

- **Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Section 19:** This section empowers councils to provide recreational facilities and to make grants or loans to voluntary organisations or other local authorities for recreational purposes. This can include contributions towards expenses incurred in providing sports facilities
- **Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972:** If a council does not have a specific power to incur expenditure on a particular initiative, Section 137 allows councils to spend money for activities that they believe will bring benefit to their community, provided that the expenditure is proportionate to the benefit received
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

13. Data Protection

Information collected as part of the Grassroots Growth Fund and loyalty card scheme will be processed in accordance with applicable data protection legislation and Council policies.