

PRESS RELEASE

Oxford City Council partners with The Good Exchange to boost Small Community Grants Programme

The programme offers grants of up to £5,000 to organisations tackling inequality, deprivation and homelessness in Oxford

Newbury, 4TH September 2018 – Not-for-profit cloud platform, [The Good Exchange](#), has today announced that it is supporting Oxford City Council's Small Community Grants Programme 2018-2019. Oxford City Council provides £1.4m of grants every year to local charities and community groups. The grants are provided to organisations to help tackle inequality, deprivation and homelessness, and to promote arts and culture in the city.

Oxford City Council has allocated £20,000 to the latest Small Grants Programme, following a successful [pilot](#) earlier this year, where the Council awarded grants of up to £1,000 available via The Good Exchange. In this latest round of grant funding, community organisations, voluntary groups, charities, not-for-profit organisations and other groups can apply for a small grant of up to £5,000 for a project, activities or event that benefits residents living in Oxford.

Councillor Christine Simm, Executive Board Member for Supporting Local Communities commented: "I am pleased that we are not only able to continue to support local charities and community groups through our Small Grants Scheme, but that we are also utilising an innovative online platform to provide that support. Our partnership with The Good Exchange will not only make it easier for local charities and community groups in Oxford to access much needed funding, but it also creates opportunities for groups to leverage further funding from other grant makers and generate donations and support through fundraising activities."

Despite Oxford's reputation as an affluent region, according to a recent [Index of Multiple Deprivation](#), 10 of Oxford's neighbourhood areas are among the 20 percent most deprived areas in England.

"As is the case in many UK cities, Oxford is grappling with significant social challenges, including poverty and homelessness, as resources from central government remain squeezed," said Ed Gairdner, COO of the Good Exchange. "The Small Community Grants Programme offers a much-needed boost for local charities and community groups, which provide vital support for their local area."

"We're delighted to support the programme on our platform, helping Oxford City Council to bring the community together to help local good causes. These days, technology can easily enable local authorities to work in partnership with charitable trusts, local companies, philanthropists and the public to improve the lives and wellbeing of residents."

Applications of up to £5,000 will be open until Monday, 10 September 2018. All applications will be considered by Oxford City Council on a case-by-case basis. Applications for up to £1,000 are open until 1st March 2019, but may close sooner if all funding has been fully allocated by this date. All applications must be made via The Good Exchange.

Keith Birnie, West Oxford Community Association, a volunteer-run non-profit organisation, said: "We received very good communication from The Good Exchange; the team was quick to respond to

our queries and were very helpful. For us, using The Good Exchange is a good way for other funders to discover our work and hopefully leverage funding.”

Hadi Al Nuri, Syrian Community in Oxford & Oxfordshire SYRCOX, an Oxford-based Syrian community group, added: “Using The Good Exchange was easy; the online application was straightforward. We hope to raise funds to help support projects to help the Syrian Community in Oxford.”

Prospective applicants should apply via The Good Exchange’s online platform and those that meet Oxford City Council’s grant criteria will be automatically matched and notified to the Council. Further details can be found [here](#).

About The Good Exchange

The Good Exchange is a transformational not-for-profit cloud platform specifically designed to match those organisations and individuals who have money to give to good causes with those who need it most; on a local, regional and national basis. As the only platform to bring together grant-making, donations, charitable projects and fundraising in one place, the automated matching system with its simple single on-line application form will revolutionise charitable giving, making it more accessible, transparent and collaborative. For the first time, those seeking to raise money for local good causes will be able to access **all sources of funding** including charitable trusts, corporate givers, fundraisers and public through a single process.

About Oxford City Council

Oxford City Council delivers services such as planning, housing, leisure and waste collection. The City Council is a District Council and is the democratically-elected body for Oxford. In Oxfordshire, there is one county council (Oxfordshire County Council) and five district councils (Oxford City Council, Cherwell, South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire). In partnership with other organisations, we provide a wide range of services for approximately 151,900 residents, 110,000 people who work in Oxford and 9.5 million people who visit the city every year.

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