

WINSFORD TOWN COUNCIL - 19 OCTOBER 2026

GRANT APPLICATION – WINSFORD, MIDDLEWICH & NORTHWICH SEA CADETS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider an application from Winsford, Middlewich & Northwich Sea Cadets for a grant of £1,650 towards the purchase and installation of a secure storage container at Winsford Flash Sailing Club for the storage of the unit's safety powerboat.

BACKGROUND

Winsford, Middlewich & Northwich Sea Cadets is a youth organisation providing activities and personal development opportunities for young people aged 10 to 18. The organisation states that it promotes teamwork, respect, self-confidence, self-discipline, commitment and inclusion through a range of activities and adventures. The applicant has submitted a request for £1,650, representing 75% of the total project cost, to fund the purchase and installation of a secure storage container at Winsford Flash Sailing Club (WFSC). The application confirms that the organisation previously received grant funding from the Town Council in 2024 towards information technology provision at its Greville Drive premises. The applicant states that this funding continues to support broadband provision.

PROJECT PROPOSAL

The grant would fund a storage container to be located at Winsford Flash Sailing Club. The purpose of the container is to provide secure onsite storage for the Sea Cadets' safety powerboat and associated equipment. The application explains that the powerboat is currently stored offsite, resulting in logistical difficulties that limit its availability for training activities. The applicant states that retaining the vessel at the sailing club would:

- Improve operational flexibility.
- Increase the number of training opportunities available.
- Improve readiness and reliability for water-based activities.
- Support sailing and powerboat training programmes.
- Assist wider youth organisations using the sailing club facilities.

BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT

The application identifies the following benefits:

- Protection of a valuable community asset from theft, vandalism and weather damage.
- Improved accessibility and availability of the powerboat for training and safety cover.
- Increased opportunities for sailing and powerboating qualifications.
- Greater operational efficiency through the removal of transport and storage difficulties.
- Long-term benefit through the provision of permanent infrastructure.

The applicant advises that direct beneficiaries include:

- Approximately 25 Sea Cadets.

- Approximately 10 adult volunteers.

Additional indirect beneficiaries are stated to include:

- More than 30 junior members of Winsford Flash Sailing Club.
- Local Scout, Cub, Beaver, Guide and Brownie groups supported by the Sea Cadets and Sailing Club.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The Council's Grants Policy permits awards of up to **75% of total project costs**, subject to a maximum grant of £2,500. The application seeks £1,650, representing 75% of project costs. This is below the Council's maximum grant level. The project supports a local voluntary organisation working directly with young people and appears consistent with the policy objectives of:

- Strengthening communities and improving wellbeing.
- Supporting projects benefiting Winsford residents.
- Encouraging participation and community involvement.
- Supporting partnership working and shared community benefit.

As the organisation works with young people, evidence of appropriate safeguarding arrangements and DBS compliance should be confirmed before any payment is released, in accordance with the Grants Policy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The applicant has requested **£1,650**. The application states that this represents **75%** of the total project cost, implying an overall project value of approximately **£2,200**. No other external funding sources are identified in the application.

RISKS

The primary risks associated with the project are considered low. As with all grant awards, there is a risk that funding could be used for purposes other than those approved. This can be mitigated through the Council's standard grant conditions requiring evidence of expenditure and completion reporting. The Council should ensure that the applicant has appropriate permission from Winsford Flash Sailing Club for the installation and ongoing location of the storage container.

CONCLUSION

The application seeks funding for infrastructure that appears capable of providing long-term benefit to a local youth organisation and its users. The project would improve access to water-based training opportunities, protect a valuable community asset and support youth development activities in Winsford. The application is within the financial limits of the Council's adopted Grants Policy and appears to align with a number of the policy's stated objectives.

RECOMMENDATION

Option A – Approve the Application

That Winsford Town Council approves a grant of £1,650 to Winsford, Middlewich & Northwich Sea Cadets towards the purchase and installation of a secure storage container at Winsford Flash Sailing Club, subject to:

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1. Evidence of the organisation's safeguarding arrangements and DBS compliance being provided where required.
 2. Confirmation that the storage container has the necessary permissions to be located at Winsford Flash Sailing Club.
 3. Submission of evidence of expenditure following completion of the project.
 4. Submission of an end-of-project report detailing how the grant has been used and the benefits achieved.
 5. Compliance with the Council's standard grant conditions.

Option B – Refuse the Application

That Winsford Town Council declines the application.

Option C – Defer the Application

That consideration of the application be deferred pending receipt of further information regarding project costs, site permissions and supporting documentation.